

MERKEL WINS IN GERMANY

ALISON SMALE MELISSA EDDY

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BERLIN - Official results confirm that Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives have won Germany's election but indicate that they have finished short of an absolute majority. Her center-right coalition partners crashed out of Parliament.



German chancellor Angela Merkel smiles behind German flags at the party headquarters in Berlin, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013, after the first exit polls have been published.
(AP Photo/Michael Sohn)

Merkel's conservative Union bloc won 41.5 percent of Sunday's vote. Its coalition partners, the pro-business Free Democrats, slumped to 4.8 percent — not enough to win seats. Challenger Peer Steinbrueck's Social Democrats won 25.7 percent, their Green allies 8.4 percent and the hard-line Left Party 8.6 percent. Election officials didn't immediately provide a seat tally but Merkel's conservatives are 1.2 percentage points behind the other parties combined.

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SOFT TARGETS

People assist injured shoppers while authorities search for gunmen at the Westgate mall in Nairobi, Kenya, Saturday, Sept. 21, 2013. A group of armed men attacked the upscale shopping mall in Nairobi on Saturday, killing at least 59 people and wounding at least 175. On Sunday, extremists holding an unknown number of hostages continued a siege after Kenyan security forces surrounded the facility.

(Tyler Hicks/The New York Times)

Kenyans move to end militants' siege of mall

Nicholas Kulich
Jeffrey Gettleman
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NAIROBI, Kenya - Seeking to end a siege that has left scores dead and shaken the nation, the Kenyan government said Sunday night that it was pressing an assault against al-Shabab militant attackers who had been holed up in a Nairobi shopping mall for more than a day. Late Sunday, the Kenyan military announced that it had retaken "most" of the Westgate mall - the attackers had been confined to the third floor since their initial assault on Sat-

urday - and freed more hostages, though details could not be confirmed. Helicopters circled the mall building through the night, and occasional explosions and bursts of gunfire were heard above a rainstorm in the area.

"This will end tonight - our forces will prevail," the police command center said in a Twitter post. "Kenyans are standing firm against aggression, and we will win."

Al-Shabab, a militant group mostly based in neighboring Somalia, answered with messages of their own, including warning that "Ke-

nyan forces who've just attempted a roof landing must know that they are jeopardizing the lives of all the hostages at #Westgate."

Later, officials said that at least four members of the security forces had been wounded. But there were no other details about additional casualties on either side.

The attack on the mall deeply distressed Kenya, a nation that has grown in stature as a force against terrorism in East Africa. As the toll mounted - at least 68 were reported dead by late Sunday, with several

people still unaccounted for - the potential for even greater loss of life seemed tangible.

Addressing the nation, President Uhuru Kenyatta sounded a note of solidarity in loss, revealing that his nephew and the man's fiancée were among the dead. "These are young, lovely people I personally knew and loved," Kenyatta said. "Many of us have lost loved ones. Let us mourn them all as one nation and keep them always in remembrance and prayer."

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Kenyans move to end militants' siege of mall

Continued from Front

He said security forces had rescued more than 1,000 people from the mall since the violence began Saturday, calling the forces' performance "remarkable and encouraging," even as he asked for patience from the public as the standoff continued. The assault on Westgate was the deadliest terrorist attack in Kenya since the 1998 al-Qaida truck bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi that killed more than 200 people.

much of the territory they once controlled. A confidential U.N. security report described the assault on the mall as two-pronged, with groups of gunmen attacking on different floors simultaneously. Joseph Ole Lenku, the Cabinet secretary for the interior, said 10 to 15 attackers were inside the mall. Kenyatta said he could neither confirm nor deny reports that one or more of the attackers were women. Al-Shabab claimed in a Twitter post that three of the attackers were Americans; a senior

There were reports that Israelis were supporting the Kenyan authorities as well; a spokeswoman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry said she could not comment. The secretary-general of Interpol, Ronald K. Noble, said in a statement that his agency had offered to send a response team, including forensic and counterterrorism experts. Kenyatta said that he had received "numerous offers of assistance from friendly countries; for the time being, however, this remains an operation of the Kenyan security agencies."



People raise their hands as armed police officers search Westgate mall for gunmen in Nairobi, Kenya, Sept. 21, 2013. A group of armed men attacked an upscale shopping mall in Nairobi on Saturday, killing at least 20 people, according to the Kenyan Red Cross, and wounding more than 50. (Tyler Hicks/The New York Times)

President Barack Obama called Kenyatta on Sunday to reaffirm the "strong and historic partnership between the United States and Kenya." That relationship has been strained by the election in March of Kenyatta, who is being prosecuted at the International Criminal Court on charges of financing death squads during an outbreak of political violence in 2007. Obama skipped visiting Kenya, his father's birthplace, on his trip to Africa in late June. Al-Shabab has said that they staged the mall attack as retribution for the Kenyan military presence in Somalia, where Kenyan troops have driven al-Shabab fighters out of

law enforcement official in the United States said that the FBI had yet to establish whether that claim was true, and that it would be difficult to do so until all the attackers were captured or killed. The number of bystanders remaining in the building was not as clear, though the Kenya Red Cross, citing the police as its source, said Sunday that 49 people were unaccounted for, raising the prospect of a significantly higher death toll before the crisis ends. The American official said that the FBI had offered assistance to the Kenyan authorities and that FBI agents were at the Kenyan command post at the scene.

Among those killed in the mall were three Britons, the British Foreign Office confirmed Sunday. Five Americans were among the wounded, but none were known to have been killed. News agencies reported that other foreigners were also among the dead. As the identities of victims began to emerge Sunday, the public mourning of a national tragedy began. One of those killed was Ruhila Adatia-Sood, a popular Kenyan radio host who was in the parking lot of the mall hosting a cooking competition, according to reports. She posted several photos on her Instagram account before the attack. □

Understanding Kenya and Somali militants al-Shabab

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Here are some items to know about al-Shabab, the Somali Islamic extremist group that has claimed responsibility for the attack on Kenya's premier shopping mall that killed dozens of civilians.

WHAT IS AL-SHABAB?

Al-Shabab is an extremist Islamic terrorist force that grew out of the anarchy that crippled Somalia after warlords ousted a longtime dictator in 1991. Its name means "The Youth" in Arabic, and it was a splinter youth wing of a weak Islamic Courts Union government created in 2006 to establish a fundamentalist Islamic state in the East African nation. Some of the insurgents' foreign fighters are from the Middle East with experience in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. Others are young, raw recruits from Somali communities in the United States and Europe.

WHERE IS AL-SHABAB?

Al-Shabab won control of almost all of Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, in 2006, and held large swathes of central and southern Somalia until a United Nations-backed force from the African Union, including soldiers from neighboring Kenya and Uganda, pushed the militants out of the city in 2011 and out of the vital port of Kismayo in 2012. The rebels still control many rural areas in Somalia where it imposes strict Shariah law, including stoning to death women accused of adultery and amputating the hands of accused thieves. In addition it has staged deadly suicide bomb attacks on Mogadishu and Kismayo.

WHY ARE THEY ATTACKING KENYA?

Al-Shabab has warned for two years that it will attack Kenya in retaliation for the country's leading role in sending troops to Somalia in 2011 and effectively reducing the extremist group's power in Somalia. Al-Shabab also claimed responsibility for the July 2010 suicide bombings in Kampala, Uganda, that killed more than 70 people watching a World Cup final soccer match at a restaurant popular among foreigners. Ugandan troops also are fighting in the African force in Somalia. The group has staged ongoing major attacks within Somalia for years.

AL-QAIDA LINKS?

Al-Shabab and al-Qaida in February 2012 announced their alliance, with al-Shabab leader Mukhtar Abu Zubair pledging allegiance to the global terror movement. Al-Qaida's 2002 attacks on an Israeli-owned Kenyan resort in Mombasa and an attempted attack on a plane carrying Israeli tourists are believed to have been planned by an al-Qaida cell in Somalia. U.S. officials believe some of the al-Qaida terrorists who bombed the United States embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998 were given refuge in Somalia.

AL-SHABAB'S FINANCING?

Before African troops moved in, al-Shabab was making a steady income from duties and fees levied at ports and airports as well as extorting taxes on domestic produce and demanding "jihadi" contributions. A United Nations report estimated al-Shabab's income in 2011 at between \$70 million and \$100 million. It has lost most of that revenue since it was forced out of Mogadishu and Kismayo. Al-Shabab's only ally in Africa is Eritrea — which backs it to counter its enemy Ethiopia, which also has troops in Somalia. Eritrea denies charges that it helps arm al-Shabab.

WHAT INSPIRES THEM?

Al-Shabab is inspired by the Saudi Arabian Wahabi version of Islam though most Somalis belong to the more moderate Sufi strain.

Iran's president reaches West ahead of UN meet

BRIAN MURPHY
NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — On the eve of a landmark trip to attend the U.N. General Assembly, Iran's president offered Sunday his most expansive vision that a deal to settle the impasse over Tehran's nuclear program could open doors for greater cooperation on regional flash points such as the Syrian civil war.

The linkage of Middle East affairs and broad-stroke rhetoric by Hasan Rouhani served as something of a final sales pitch to President Barack Obama ahead of the U.N. gathering, where Rouhani hopes to garner pledges from Western envoys to restart stalled nuclear negotiations as a way to ease painful economic sanctions.

Rouhani also must try to sell his policies of outreach to skeptical Iranian hardliners, including the powerful Revolutionary Guard. Failure to return from New York with some progress — either pledges to revive nuclear talks or hints that the U.S. and its allies may consider relaxing sanctions — could increase pressures on Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to withdraw his apparent backing for Rouhani's overtures with Washington.

It adds up to a high-stakes week ahead for Rouhani in his first gathering with Western leaders since his inauguration last month.

While his effort to open new diplomatic space is genuine, it's still unclear where it could find footholds. Obama has exchanged letters with Rouhani and says he would welcome groundbreaking direct talks after a nearly 35-year diplomatic estrangement. But Washington previously has rejected offering a significant rollback in sanctions — Rouhani's main goal — as a way to push ahead nuclear talks.

Rouhani and Obama are scheduled to speak within hours of each other Tuesday at the General Assembly's annual meeting,

setting up the possibility of the first face-to-face exchange between American and Iranian leaders since shortly after Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"The Iranian nation is ready to talk and negotiate with the West, provided that there are no preconditions, the talks are on equal terms and there is mutual respect. (The West) should not consider only its own interests. Mutual interests should be considered," Rouhani said at a military parade for the 33rd anniversary of Iraq's 1980 invasion of Iran, which set off a ruinous eight-year war. The speech was carried live by state TV.

He added that if Western countries acknowledge Iran's "rights" — a reference that includes the contentious issue of uranium enrichment — it would be a path toward mutual "cooperation, logic, peace and friendship."

"Then we will be able to resolve regional, even global, problems," Rouhani said.

Iran and the United States are at odds over the civil war in Syria. Tehran backs President Bashar Assad, while Washington supports rebels trying to oust him. Iran also is the patron for anti-Israel forces led by Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Still, Iran has faced a potential quandary over Western claims that Assad's forces used chemical weapons in an attack last month. Iran has strongly opposed chemical arms since suffering attacks with mustard gas and other agents by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's military in the 1980s. Rouhani has worked hard to recast Iran's international image after eight years under his combative predecessor, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. But the new Iranian leader has not strayed from Tehran's unshakable position: Its right to conduct nuclear activities that the West fears could be a step toward weapons development, especially uranium enrichment. □

DC budget fight blame game continues

PHILIP ELLIOTT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even before a budget deadline arrives, leaders from both parties are blaming each other — and some Republicans are criticizing their own colleagues — for a government shutdown many are treating as inevitable.

The top Democrat in the House of Representatives says Republicans are "leg-

ment services. While work continues on a temporary spending bill, a potentially more devastating separate deadline looms a few weeks later when the government could hit the debt ceiling and run out of money to pay its bills.

"This is totally irresponsible, completely juvenile and, as I called it, legislative arson. It's just destructive," House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said in an in-

ate's Democratic majority and Obama's guaranteed veto.

"I believe we should stand our ground," said Cruz, who already was trying to blame Obama and his Democratic allies if the government shuts down.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, a Missouri Democrat, said Cruz's efforts were destructive and self-serving as Cruz eyes a White House campaign in 2016.



Flanked by reporters and his security detail, Speaker of the House John Boehner, R-Ohio, walks through Statuary Hall at the Capitol on the way to the House Chamber in Washington.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

islativists" who are using their opposition to President Barack Obama's sweeping health care overhaul as an excuse to close government's doors. A leading tea party antagonist in the Senate counters that conservatives should use any tool available to stop the Affordable Care Act from taking hold.

Former President Bill Clinton's labor secretary says the Republicans are willing "to risk the entire system of government" to get their way, while former House Speaker Newt Gingrich who oversaw the last government shutdown urged fellow Republicans to remember "this is not a dictatorship."

The unyielding political posturing on Sunday comes one week before Congress reaches an Oct. 1 deadline to dodge any interruptions in govern-

ment that aired Sunday. The Republican-led House on Friday approved legislation designed to wipe out the 3-year-old health care law that Obama considers his signature accomplishment and has vowed to preserve. But the House's move was more a political win than a measure likely to be implemented.

Across the Capitol, Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid said he would keep the health law intact despite Republicans' attempts, in his words, "to take an entire law hostage simply to appease the tea party anarchists."

One of those tea party lawmakers, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, showed little sign on Sunday that he cared about the uphill climb to make good on his pledge to derail the health care law in the face of solid opposition from the Sen-

"I cannot believe that they are going to throw a tantrum and throw the American people and our economic recovery under the bus," she said.

"This is about running for president with Ted Cruz. This isn't about meaningful statesmanship," she added later.

Obama, speaking to political allies on Saturday evening, showed little patience for Republican efforts to undermine his legislative accomplishment by either avenue.

"We will not negotiate over whether or not America should keep its word and meet its obligations," Obama told the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation dinner. "We're not going to allow anyone to inflict economic pain on millions of our own people just to make an ideological point." □



As 2016 looms, Clinton keeps up with supporters

KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Whether she runs for president or not in 2016, Hillary Rodham Clinton is making sure she stays connected to important Democratic constituencies, from college students and black women to the gay and lesbian community.

Clinton has spoken to a

women's institute in Pennsylvania, a prominent black women's sorority in the U.S. capital, the American Jewish University in Los Angeles and an organization called Chicago House that helps people with HIV and AIDS. Her fall itinerary includes speeches before college students at three universities in New York, which she represented in the Senate,

an award from the Elton John AIDS Foundation, a speech at a Minneapolis synagogue and an event involving a Mexican-American initiative at the University of Southern California. For all the talk that the former secretary of state intended to slow down after two decades in national political life, Clinton is keeping a busy schedule



Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton walks to the podium after receiving the Liberty Medal during a ceremony at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. Clinton says in an interview with New York Magazine that she is wrestling with running for president but is "pragmatic and realistic" as she considers a potential White House campaign in 2016.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

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that amounts to a training camp for a second presidential campaign, if there is one.

In many of her speeches, Clinton talks about America's role in the world and weighs in on national issues on her own terms. Her words often seem to be aimed at maintaining a connection to the party's base of women, black and Hispanic voters, young people, and gays and lesbians.

While her speeches avoid partisan politics, they put her before admiring audiences that relish the notion of a woman leading the country.

"We broke the great race barrier with President Obama but it's time that we also really ask ourselves deep down what it's going to take to elect a woman president," Clinton said Thursday in response to a question during a Miami address to travel agents. "And I will certainly do

what I can when that time comes to elect somebody — whoever that somebody might be."

Clinton's advisers note that she has avoided the circuit of Democratic dinners and events in early primary voting and caucus states such as Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, and focused on issues about which she long has been passionate — the status of women and girls around the globe, early childhood education and the trafficking of wildlife in Africa.

She is expected to limit her in-person political activity this year to fundraisers and events for Terry McAuliffe, a friend who's running for Virginia governor.

The former first lady regularly deflects questions about her future, telling audiences there is plenty of time for those considerations. But the significance of a female president is never far from the surface. □

For Obama, a dual role as consoler and advocate

MICHAEL D. SHEAR

© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama honored the victims of the Navy Yard shooting during a memorial service Sunday, serving once again as the nation's consoler after a mass killing.

The service was held at the Marine barracks down the street from the Navy Yard, where, the authorities said, a naval contractor armed with a shotgun killed 12 people and wounded a dozen more last week before being killed by the police.

It has become an all-too-familiar role for Obama, who has presided over similarly grim services for the victims of shootings in Newtown, Conn.; Tucson, Ariz.; Aurora, Colo.; Oak Creek, Wis.; and Fort Hood, Texas. At each event, the president has sought to find the right balance between the sadness of a nation and the anger of its citizens. On Sunday, he once again tried to help the families of the victims find some peace after an unexplainable event.

But the memorial services have also served to provide Obama with the emotional power to fuel his gun-control efforts. During each event, the president has urged the nation to pass laws that would keep firearms out of the hands of criminals and mentally ill people. That message reached a fever pitch after the service for the 20 children who died at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown. Obama denounced the repeated memorial services he had attended as president and vowed to do something to reduce the cycle of violence. "Surely we can do better than this," Obama said. "If there is even one step we can take to save another child, or another parent, or another town from the grief that has visited Tucson and Aurora and Oak Creek and Newtown and communities from Columbine to Blacksburg before that, then surely we have an obligation to try."



President Barack Obama embraces a woman during a memorial service at the Marine barracks down the street from the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, Sept. 22, 2013. Obama honored the victims of the Navy Yard shooting on Sunday, serving once again as the nation's consoler after a mass killing.

(Gabriella Demczuk/The New York Times)

He added: "In the coming weeks, I will use whatever power this office holds to engage my fellow citizens - from law enforcement to mental health professionals to parents and educators - in an effort aimed at preventing more tragedies like this."

That promise led to an effort by the administration to push through aggressive gun restrictions, including an expanded background-check system that would have closed loopholes that allowed guns to be sold without a check.

But months later, that effort failed when the Senate could not pass a compromise background-check bill amid fierce opposition from the National Rifle Association and lawmakers who favor gun rights.

In recent days, Obama has repeated his call for Congress to act to reduce the availability of guns to criminals and those who are mentally ill. Aaron Alexis, who is suspected of being the gunman in the Navy Yard shooting, had a history of mental health problems.

In a speech to the Congressional Black Caucus on Saturday night, Obama said the country must not give up the gun-control effort despite the legislative setbacks. □

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Harvard University launches \$6.5 billion capital campaign

JAY LINDSAY

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Harvard University launched a \$6.5 billion capital campaign Saturday that, if successful, would be the largest fundraising effort in the history of higher education.

The school said the campaign had broad goals spanning all its schools and would fund research into neuroscience, stem cell science and low-cost energy for the developing world.

The campaign would target major renovations of the university's undergraduate housing and increase its study of new learning and teaching strategies.

It also aims to expand the school's global presence, including through an ongoing project to develop a center in Shanghai for conferences and research.

Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust said the campaign will help the school meet the world's increasingly complex and pressing



Microsoft founder and philanthropist Bill Gates, right, talks with David Rubenstein, left, co-chairman of Harvard's capital campaign, during the campaign launch at the Sanders Theatre on campus at Harvard in Cambridge, Mass. The 6.5 billion capital campaign, if successful, would be the largest fundraising effort in the history of higher education.

(AP Photo/Kris Snibbe)

needs.

"We will meet these challenges, and in doing so, we will reaffirm what makes Harvard — and universities in general — such essential and irreplaceable contributors to the pursuit of knowledge and the welfare of the world," Faust said in a press release.

The campaign quietly began two years ago. Harvard says it has already raised \$2.8 billion in gifts and pledges, some of which has already been used.

The school aims to reach its \$6.5 billion goal by 2018. If it does so, the campaign would surpass a five-year,

\$6.2 billion campaign by Stanford University that ended last year. Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania have completed multiyear fundraising campaigns that netted \$3.9 billion and \$3.5 billion, respectively.

Harvard's endowment at the end of the last fiscal year was \$30.7 billion.

Asked why people would give to an already wealthy school like Harvard and not some other cause, Harvard Provost Alan Garber said the school has a history of helping solve the world's problems and donors believe "Harvard can do uniquely well."

"This ranges from educational innovation to scientific breakthroughs that have changed the world," he said.

Although it's called a capital campaign, the focus expands past buildings into what Harvard officials have defined as the school's greatest needs. The school

said about 45 percent of the money raised would support teaching and research, 25 percent would go to financial aid and student services, 20 percent would go to capital improvements and 10 percent would foster collaborations and other initiatives. A priority of the campaign is the expansion of Harvard's growing School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, which became its own school six years ago. Garber said the move is not a sign Harvard is planning to compete with its neighbor, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, one of the world's most famous engineering schools.

Harvard's engineering school is distinct because its students are also embedded in a liberal arts environment, and the school wants to develop that, he said.

"We are not trying to create another version of MIT," said Garber. □



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Chiquita seeks dismissal in Colombian paramilitary case

CURT ANDERSON
AP Legal Affairs Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Faced with potentially billions of dollars in legal liability, Chiquita Brands International is asking a federal appeals court to block lawsuits filed against it in the U.S. by thousands of Colombians whose relatives were killed in that country's bloody, decades-long civil war.

The produce giant, which long had huge banana plantations in Colombia, has admitted paying a right-wing Colombian paramilitary group \$1.7 million over a seven-year period. The Charlotte, North Carolina-based company insists it was blackmailed into paying or risking violence against its own operations and employees, although in 2007 Chiquita pleaded guilty to U.S. criminal charges that it had supported terrorists. It paid a \$25 million fine.

The Colombian lawsuits, consolidated for pretrial action before a federal judge in West Palm Beach, Florida, want Chiquita held liable for thousands of deaths at the hands of the AUC, the Spanish acronym for the right-wing United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia. The Colombian relatives have won several key pretrial rulings, but now Chiquita is taking its fight for dismissal to a new level. In essence, Chiquita wants the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to dismiss the lawsuits because, the company claims, each murder cannot be tied specifically to the company. It's not enough, Chiquita's lawyers say in court papers, to assume the company's payments to the AUC meant Chiquita knew about and supported those individual killings.

Chiquita also says the Colombian cases should be tossed because of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last April in a case called *Kiobel vs. Royal Dutch Petroleum*, which imposed new limits on the ability of foreigners to use American courts to seek accountability and monetary damages for human rights abuses.

Any decision by the 11th Circuit is likely months away, adding to the years Colombian family members have already been waiting for the lawsuits to be resolved. The cases were consolidated in Florida in 2008.

Three women who lost relatives to the AUC and are among the plaintiffs in lawsuits against Chiquita agreed to speak by phone recently with The Associated Press from the town of Apartado, Colombia. They spoke on condition that their names not be used because they fear retribution from former paramilitary members, many of whom still live in the area and have powerful political connections.

Human rights groups say many former paramilitary members have reorganized into what are called "emerging criminal bands" involved in racketeering and extortion.

One of the women, a 48-year-old who makes a small income sitting for a neighbor's baby, said paramilitary troops descended on her home in 2000 while her husband and a friend were working in their garden. The troops requested identification papers and demanded to know whether there were weapons for the leftist guerrillas hidden in the home. She said they ransacked the home and found none,

and she fled with the couple's infant child.

"When he let me go, I ran with my girl and jumped over the (garden) wall. I don't even know how I did that. I'd never done it be-

fore," the woman said between sobs.

When she returned to her home with neighbors, she found her husband shot dead on their kitchen floor. Now, she said, the Chiquita lawsuit gives her some

hope for justice and a better life for herself and her two children. "I am fighting for my children, so that they can have some help after all this time," the woman said. Another woman, a 45-year-old single mother of three, makes a living selling lunches from house to house. She said right-wing paramilitary soldiers initially forced her family off their land in 1997, accusing them of being sympathetic to the leftists. Not long after, she said, her 17-year-old brother was brutally beaten and fatally shot.

"It is still horrible for us. My mother died the next year of sadness," she said. "The bitterness is never erased." □



Chiquita bananas are on display at a grocery store in Bainbridge, Ohio.

(AP Photo/Amy Sancetta)

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Merkel triumphs in German vote but allies crushed

Continued from Front

The likeliest outcome is a Merkel-led coalition with the Social Democrats. The results will likely mean more paralysis for Europe as its most important country engages in weeks of horse-trading to form what was likely to be a grand coalition with her main opponents on the left, the Social Democrats, who did not perform as well as they had hoped Sunday and who may prove to be reluctant partners for fear losing further luster in a government dominated by Merkel.

President François Hollande of France was swift to congratulate the chancellor on "success in the



Secretary General Hermann Groehe, right, flashes a thumbs up, as Gerda Hasselfeldt of the Christian Social Union, third from left, applauds German Chancellor Angela Merkel, second right, as she addresses supporters at the party headquarters in Berlin, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013.

(AP Photo/Michael Sohn)

federal election" and invited her to Paris as soon as possible - a clear indication of the eagerness with which Germany's most important partners awaited the election result.

Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble, who with Merkel has guided Germany and thus Europe through the euro crisis, was swift to go on television and assure European partners that the government in Berlin would

continue to play a leading role.

But what no one knows is exactly how much fiscal and political unity a new Merkel government would want.

For the moment, however, the exceptionally strong showing left the chancellor and her party exuberant. Rarely has Merkel looked as buoyant as she did when she appeared onstage at her party headquarters

after projections were announced. Her supporters wildly cheered "Angie! Angie!" and applauded solidly for two minutes, before she thanked party workers, particularly young volunteers, her campaign manager, aides in the chancellery and - most unusually - her husband, Joachim Sauer, a quantum chemist who generally shuns the limelight. □

Mortar lands in Russian Embassy in Damascus

JAMAL HALABY
JIM HEINTZ
Associated Press
AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — A mortar round landed inside the Russian Embassy compound in Damascus on Sunday, state media said, as Moscow said it was willing to send military observers to secure Syrian efforts to surrender its chemical weapons to international control.

Russia is a leading backer of Syria's President Bashar

Assad and rebels fighting to topple his regime have previously targeted the diplomatic mission in Damascus with rockets and mortars.

In Moscow, the Russian Foreign Ministry confirmed the attack, saying rebels fired mortars that landed on the grounds of their embassy. Three workers were injured in the attack, the ministry said, adding that the injuries were not life-threatening. It gave no further de-

tails. The Russian Embassy is located in Damascus' upscale Mazraa district, which also houses several Syrian security institutions, a soccer stadium and night-clubs.

In another mortar attack outside the capital, two people were injured when shells slammed into a residential building in the suburb of Jaramana, SANA said. □

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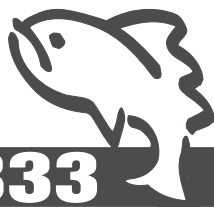


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Chinese politician Bo Xilai receives life sentence

C. BODEEN

DIDI TANG

Associated Press

JINAN, China (AP) — A court sentenced Bo Xilai to life in prison for corruption Sunday, burying the career of one of China's most up-and-coming politicians and lowering the curtain on a scandal that exposed a murder and illicit enrichment among the country's elite.

The former Politburo member and Chongqing city party leader was convicted of bribery, embezzlement and abuse of power Sunday in a case set in motion by his wife's poisoning of a British business associate in late 2011. It also was widely regarded as a political prosecution and a sign that top leaders had turned against the charismatic populist.

The Jinan Intermediate People's Court deprived Bo of political rights for life and confiscated all his personal assets. A lawyer with direct knowledge of the case said Bo indicated that the verdict was unjust and was expected to appeal, but observers say he has little chance of success. He has 10 days to appeal.

"It's a political death sentence for him," said Dali Yang, a political scientist at the University of Chicago. "As long as the current circumstances stay, he cannot come back."

Despite fears of public strife or brutal political infighting spearheaded by Bo's supporters within the leadership, there has been no major groundswell of backing for Bo, either within the Communist Party or in the public — although he remains popular among many Chinese.

The party deftly managed

the potential aftershocks of the case partly by keeping the charges focused on Bo's corruption and keeping politics out of the trial, said Jonathan Holslag, a research fellow at the Institute for Contemporary China Studies at the University of Brussels.

"The leadership has been successful because it had a clear criminal case against Bo, because it deterred Bo's entourage from politicizing the trial, and because it matched Bo's populism with its own promises to rip out corruption, boost growth and build a strong country," Holslag said.

In a departure from the choreographed proceedings of other recent political trials, Bo had launched an unusually vigorous defense while on the stand last month. He denied all charges and blamed the corruption on others in his inner circle, including his wife, forgoing the leniency customarily given in Chinese courts when a defendant expresses contrition.

The charges had likely been tailored to offer a lighter sentence had Bo cooperated with prosecutors, but he declined to play along, said Willy Lam, an expert on Communist Party politics at Chinese University in Hong Kong.

"He was punished for his disobedience and defiance," Lam said.

Bo also became the highest-level politician convicted for corruption under Chinese President Xi Jinping, who has staked his reputation on combatting graft among Communist Party members and cleaning up their image of luxurious lifestyles that has angered the Chinese public. □



In this photo released by the Jinan Intermediate People's Court, fallen politician Bo Xilai, center, is handcuffed and held by police officers as he stands at the court in Jinan, in eastern China's Shandong province Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013.

(AP Photo/Jinan IPC)

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Anger, protests, calls for calm after killing of Israeli soldier

JODI RUDOREN

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JERUSALEM - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel responded Sunday to the killing of an Israeli soldier by a Palestinian co-worker with a vow to fight "terror with all the means at our disposal," as other politicians suggested that the episode threatened Israel's nascent peace talks with the Palestinians.

"The people of Israel share your loss," Netanyahu said in a message to the soldier's family. "This atrocious act proves once again that the battle against terror is unending."

The Israeli authorities said that the co-worker, Nidal Omar, 42, had persuaded the soldier, Sgt. Tomer Hazan, 20, with whom he worked at a restaurant outside Tel Aviv, to get into a taxi with him Friday. Omar took him to a Jewish settlement in the West Bank and then to his family's village nearby, later killing him and hiding his body in a well, they said.

Omar hoped to use the soldier's body as leverage to pressure Israel to release

his brother from prison, officials said, a strategy the military said had been a growing threat from Palestinian militants in recent months.

Eight Palestinians in all were arrested Saturday on suspicion of involvement in the case.

Protesters - who noted that Omar had been hired despite lacking the required permit to work or live in Israel - continued to gather Sunday in Bat Yam, a coastal city south of Tel Aviv, outside the shuttered restaurant, where memorial candles spelled out the soldier's name and the owner posted a banner expressing sorrow. □



Mourners kneel over the grave of Israeli soldier Sgt. Tomer Hazan, who was reportedly killed by Nidal Omar, a Palestinian co-worker, in Jerusalem, Sept. 22, 2013.

(Rina Castelnuovo/The New York Times)

Pakistan church attack kills dozens

ISMAIL KHAN

SALMAN MASOOD

© 2013 New York Times

PESHAWAR, Pakistan - A suicide attack on a historic Christian church in northwestern Pakistan killed at least 78 people Sunday in one of the deadliest at-

tacks on the Christian minority in Pakistan in years.

The attack occurred as worshippers left All Saints Church in the old quarter of the regional capital, Peshawar, after a service Sunday morning. Up to 600 people had attended the

service and were leaving to receive free food being distributed on the lawn outside when two explosions ripped through the crowd.

"As soon as the service finished and the food was being distributed, all of a sudden we heard one explosion, followed by another," said Azim Ghor, a witness.

Interior Minister Nisar Ali Khan, who arrived in Peshawar on Sunday evening, said that 78 people had been killed, including 34 women and seven children.

"Such an attack on women and children is against humanity," Khan said.

Akhtar Ali Shah, the home secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, said that more than 100 people had been wounded. Khan said that 37 of those were children. The dead included two Muslim police officers who had been posted outside the church. Witness reported scenes of mayhem as rescue workers ferried victims from the church, which witnesses said was scattered with body parts, shrapnel and bloodied clothing. □

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Venezuela's president Maduro in China, signs agreements



Chinese President Xi Jinping, left, accompanies Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro to review an honor guard during a welcoming ceremony outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013.

(AP Photo/Lintao Zhang)

BEIJING (AP) — China and Venezuela signed several agreements Sunday during a visit by the Venezuelan president that is meant to strengthen economic ties

between the South American nation and its leading creditor.

President Nicolas Maduro told his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, that the

main goal of his trip was to further consolidate and expand the strategic partnership between the two countries that late President Hugo Chavez began with Chinese leaders. Chavez died in March after 14 years in power.

The two leaders signed 12 agreements Sunday, including ones related to a finance fund deal, education, and a joint development between Chinese state-owned oil producer Sinopec and Venezuela's national oil company. They also signed a cooperation and exchange agreement between China's space flight administration and Venezuela's science and innovation ministry relating to remote satellites. No de-

tails were given on any of the agreements.

Maduro told Xi that Venezuela was in an important phase of economic transformation and wanted to diversify its economic structure. "We want to put forth great effort to develop our production industries and at the same time solidify our 21st century socialist foundation," Maduro said. He said he believed these goals could be realized this decade through exchanges and current and future cooperative projects between the two countries.

Xi called Maduro "China's good friend" and said his visit would propel bilateral relations "to new heights." □

Egypt draft constitution expected by November

HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — A 50-member panel tasked with amending Egypt's Islamist-drafted constitution will complete its work by early November, a spokesman for the body said Sunday, wrapping up the first step of a military-backed roadmap in place since the ouster of President Mohamed Morsi.

Despite interim authorities pushing ahead with the transition, opposition to Morsi's ouster has continued however, with hundreds protesting the July 3 coup at schools and universities on Sunday.

Authorities ramped up security force deployments at campuses around the country in anticipation of the protests.

Classes were temporarily disrupted in at least one school in a village on the outskirts of Cairo, and police detained about two dozen students, according to a member of Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood group. Brotherhood leader and former lawmaker Essam el-Erian called on students to keep up their protests in a new video aired Sunday on Al-Jazeera's satellite channel dedicated to Egyptian affairs. □

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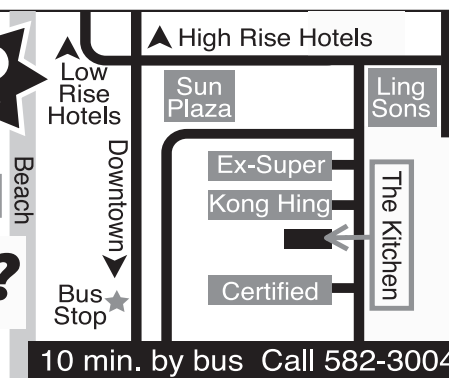
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Haitian designers show off their styles in runway show

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

(AP) — Haiti has long been renowned for its brightly colored paintings, metalwork handicrafts and wide-ranging styles of music while its fashion industry has lagged behind. This is in large part because Haitian fashion consists mainly of clothing exported from Florida, otherwise known as "pepe," an industry that began in the 1960s and left many tailors unemployed. But a number of local designers, and a handful of foreigners, are hoping to revive the Caribbean nation's fashion industry as they organized "Haiti Fashion Week," a three-day emporium for showing off its latest styles. The European Union donated 100,000 euros to sponsor the event, said Barbara Prezeau Stephenson, a Haitian artist and EU representative. It was the second fashion show in Haiti since last November. Foreign designers came from the neighboring Dominican Republic, France and Trinidad and Tobago.

Beginning Thursday, models took to the runway at a hotel above Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince. They sported suitcase-sized handbags, linen dresses, horn necklaces and other accessories that displayed voodoo symbols. The shows, which cost \$25 per night, featured beach attire, casual and cocktail clothes, and evening wear. The works of designer Harry Lafond, for example, drew inspiration from the karabela, a traditional Haitian dress made of light blue denim. Another designer, Gregory Vorbe, made silk-screen T-shirts that bore Creole messages. Like the artists and artisans, Haiti's designers are mostly self-taught, largely because there are no official schools. Many struggle with the day-to-day hardships of Haiti to do their jobs, including sporadic electricity, broken roads and harsh weather.

Said Vorbe: "The amount of stuff we have to overcome to be able to do this is crazy." □



A model wears a creation by Haitian designer Marie Therese Fouchard during Fashion Week in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. A number of local designers, and a handful of foreigners, are hoping to revive Haitian fashion as they organized "Haiti Fashion Week," a three-day emporium for showing off the Caribbean nation's latest styles.

(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

E.U. pledges \$1.4B to help former Caribbean colonies

GEORGETOWN, Guyana

(AP) — The European Union says it will make \$1.4 billion available to former Caribbean colonies in coming years. The announcement comes as EU officials met with Caricom leaders late Friday to talk about how the money would be disbursed from 2014 to 2020. Discussions focused on crime and security, climate change, re-

gional integration and providing special assistance to Haiti.

The EU remains the Caribbean region's largest donor, disbursing \$64 million last year for a variety of projects. Some Caribbean officials, however, have complained that millions of dollars originally pledged go unused because of strict criteria to qualify for grants. □

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Divi Phoenix entertains Miss Teen Aruba Candidates



PALM BEACH - A group of Miss Teen Aruba candidates enjoyed breakfast at the Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort, Pure Ocean, recently hosted by resort executives Pedro Vargas and Tabitha Fecunda. The candidates helped make a recent photo shoot, with US based photographer Steve Keith possible, contributing to the Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort image library. Breakfast at the resort was especially inviting, as it featured freshly cut tropical fruit and juices, cheeses and cold cut cuts, cereals



and all American breakfast favorites, including French toast and pancakes, an interactive omelets station, fresh pastries, and bottomless flutes of mimosa. With the opening of Pure Ocean, the resort made its local group rate public, for

breakfast at \$14 per person, for a minimum of ten people, enjoying a large influx of patrons. Pictured here Pedro Vargas is recognized by the Miss Teen Aruba Organization guided by George Winterdaal.



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World Alzheimer's report 2013 reveals global Alzheimer's epidemic creating shortage of caregivers, lack of support for family members

- Number of dependent older people to increase to 277 million by 2050, half with Alzheimer's Disease or other dementia

LONDON/ARUBA (22 September, 2013) - The World Alzheimer Report released on September 20, 2013, by Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) examines the latest global and regional

trends of older people needing dementia care, and provides an analysis of long-term care systems around the world.

The report reveals that as the world population ages, the traditional system of "informal" care by family, friends, and community will not be sustainable. Data from the 2013 World Alzheimer's Report predicts the number of dependent older people will rise from 101 million in 2010 to 277 million in 2050, an almost

threefold increase. Nearly half of them are living with Alzheimer's disease or other form of dementia, quickly becoming a global health crisis.

THE ARUBA PROJECTION:

Based on the population projection ("medium scenario"), 2010-2030 of the Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba (CBS), this World Alzheimer's report indicates that by 2030, the Aruba population will consist of 3,800 persons developing or



suffering from Alzheimer's or related conditions (A.D.). This number is an increase by 2.5 times greater than the 2010 estimate ($\pm 1,500$ persons). So, without a medical breakthrough, the number of people with A.D. conditions in Aruba is expected to be almost triple by 2030 when compared with the estimate of 2010. This increase is much higher when compared to the World Alzheimer's Report 2013, which expects a tripling by 2050.

On average symptoms of A.D. and related conditions are noticed by families more or less three years before a firm diagnosis is made.

Alzheimer's and related conditions are the single greatest cause of disability in older Aruba citizens (aged 65 years or older) and the third leading cause of disability burden overall.

The Alzheimer's Foundation of Aruba projects that by 2030 Aruba will face a shortage of paid and unpaid carers for people with A.D. and related conditions.

The global report provides a comprehensive view of the impact the disease has on society. A particular focus this year was the impact of Alzheimer's and dementias on those who provide care. The report concluded that there is need for additional support in order to lessen the burden on the individual as well as the global infrastructure.

Professor Martin Prince, leading author of the report, comments "People with dementia have special care needs. Compared with other long-term care users they need more personal care, more hours of care, and more supervision, all of which is associated with greater caregiver strain, and higher costs. Their needs for care start early in the disease course, and evolve constantly over time, requiring advanced planning, monitoring, and coordination. That's why dementia needs to be a public health priority and adequate planning needs to be in place so that people with dementia can live well."

ADI is calling for all governments to make dementia a

priority by developing National Dementia Plans to ensure that national health and social care systems are adequately structured and funded to provide high-quality long-term care to people throughout the dementia journey.

Marc Wortmann, executive director, Alzheimer's Disease International said: "We need to value those that provide frontline care for people with dementia. This includes paid, as well as unpaid family caregivers, who share much in common. Governments need to acknowledge the role of caregivers and ensure that there are policies in place to support them."

The report comments that the current investment in research and development into dementia (including prevention, treatment, cure and care) is currently an order of magnitude lower than would be indicated given the burden and cost of the disorder. It calls upon governments and research funders worldwide to transform their system of priorities, ensuring at least a tenfold increase in current levels of investment.

Fundacion Alzheimer's Aruba (F.A.A.) is the charity for people with A.D. conditions, their families and carers. As the Foundation of Aruba and Official Member of Alzheimer Disease International and Alzheimer IberoAmerica, it provides advocacy, support services

(Alzheimer's Social Club), second opinion on neuropsychological diagnostics, education and information in four main languages (Dutch, English, Spanish and Papiamentu). Further on in cooperation with Alzheimer's Associations around the world, F.A.A. provides information in other languages (among others Chinese, Greek, German, Portuguese, Hindi, etc.).

For more information contact: Fundacion Alzheimer Aruba; E-mail: alzheimera-ruba@gmail.com; Phone: (+297)- 582-1684; Website: www.alzheimeraruba.org; Face Book y Twitter: Fundacion Alzheimer Aruba; Bank account: RBC Bank Aruba N.V., account #12.51.511

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Katie Howard

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CASINO AND SHOPS



Newton, Panthers pound winless Giants

New York Giants' Eli Manning (10) is sacked by Carolina Panthers' Charles Johnson (95) during the second half of an NFL football game in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013. The Panthers won 38-0.

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Cam Newton threw three touchdown passes and ran for another, and Carolina sacked Eli Manning seven times as the Panthers handed Tom Coughlin his worst defeat as coach of the New York Giants, 38-0 Sunday. It was the largest margin of victory in Panthers history. The Panthers (1-2) allowed Newton to run out of the read option, which helped open up an offense that had been mostly stagnant this season. Newton had 223 yards passing and threw two touchdown passes to Brandon LaFell and one to Ted Ginn Jr. He ran for 45 yards and his first

TD of the season. The Giants are in trouble: Of the 161 teams that have started the season 0-3 since 1978, only five made the NFL playoffs, according to STATS LLC. The Giants came in with only 73 yards rushing in their first two games and managed just 60 yards on the ground. Manning, under pressure all day long, finished 12 of 23 for 119 yards with two interceptions. **PATRIOTS 23, BUCCANEERS 3 FOXBOROUGH, Massachusetts (AP)** — Tom Brady threw two touchdown passes to Kenbrell Thompkins to lead New England to a one-sided win over Tampa Bay.

Thompkins, an undrafted free agent, scored on plays of 16 and 5 yards in the first half. Aaron Dobson, a second-round draft pick, finished with seven catches for 52 yards. In their first two games, the rookies combined for just nine receptions. The Patriots led 17-3 at halftime as the Buccaneers (0-3) wasted several opportunities. They turned the ball over twice on downs, Rian Lindell missed a 38-yard field goal attempt before making a 30-yarder, and Josh Freeman threw an interception to former Bucs cornerback Aqib Talib with 11 seconds left in the first half. The Patriots (3-0) have al-

lowed just 34 points this season. Freeman, who entered the game with a completion rate of 45.3 percent, the worst in the NFL, completed only 19 of 41 passes for 236 yards. The Patriots held Doug Martin, who rushed for 144 yards a week earlier, to 88 yards on 20 carries. **BENGALS 34, PACKERS 30 CINCINNATI (AP)** — Terence Newman returned a fumble 58 yards for a touchdown with 3:47 left, rallying Cincinnati past Green Bay in a game of wild momentum swings set up by non-stop turnovers. Each team gave it away four times. Each team returned a fumble for a

touchdown — M.D. Jennings ran one back for Green Bay (1-2). The Bengals blew a 14-point lead, and the Packers let a 16-point lead get away in the second half. The Bengals (2-1) finished it off when Michael Johnson batted down Aaron Rodgers' fourth-down pass at the Cincinnati 20-yard line with 1:21 left, ending a sub-par showing for the quarterback. The Bengals defense made the difference as Rodgers was 26 of 43 for 244 yards with a touchdown, but was sacked four times and threw two interceptions.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 23

Oracle wins twice to stay alive in America's Cup

BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

This has become the America's Cup that just won't go away, thanks to fickle wind and Oracle Team USA's remarkable resurgence.

Twice down by seven races, the defending champions no doubt have Emirates Team New Zealand on edge.

Skipper Jimmy Spithill and his mates with Oracle Team USA were masterful in light air Sunday on San Francisco Bay, winning Races 14 and 15 to cut the Kiwis' lead to 8-5.

Spithill steered his 72-foot catamaran to huge leads in both races and has won four straight since the Kiwis reached match point on Wednesday.

Docked two points in the biggest cheating scandal in the 162-year history of the America's Cup, Oracle needs four more wins to keep the oldest trophy in international sports.

Oracle won Race 14 by 23 seconds and then took Race 15 by 37 seconds.

After the regatta was slowed by too much wind, too little wind and then wind from the wrong direction, Spithill and the Oracle boys have made it a contest.

Oracle has won six of the last eight races and six of 10 since Spithill replaced American tactician John Kostecki with British Olympic star Ben Ainslie, who had been the helmsman of the backup boat.

Race 16 and Race 17, if necessary, are scheduled for Monday.

Oracle Team USA, owned by software billionaire Larry Ellison, has made changes to its catamaran every night at its base on Pier 10. Whatever it did after Saturday's race was postponed made the cat look like a rocket ship sailing downwind on its hydrofoils, its hulls completely out of the water.

The American boat even foiled sailing upwind on the third leg of Race 15 at

about 35 mph.

Team New Zealand skipper Dean Barker was slightly ahead at the start but had a little skid heading across the wind, which helped allow Spithill to reach the first mark first and round with a 3-second lead. Sailing downwind, Oracle opened a lead of some 765 yards.

There was a heart-stopping moment when Oracle sailed into a wind shadow and slowed dramatically as it passed Alcatraz Island and approached the top mark. The Kiwis closed to about 100 yards, but then they lost their wind and Spithill surged around the fourth mark and sped across the wind on its foils to the finish line just off America's Cup Park on Pier 27-29.

There was a close call during the prestart when Oracle tacked quickly on favored starboard tack and the Kiwis crossed just ahead on port. Spithill protested but it was waved off. The fickle conditions on San Francisco Bay have already cost the Kiwis the chance to clinch the Cup. On Friday, Race 13 was abandoned because of the 40-minute time limit with the Kiwis well ahead on the fourth leg in light breeze. When the wind rose and the race was re-sailed, Oracle won to stay alive.

In Race 14, Spithill controlled the start and kept his black cat ahead the whole race, sometimes leading by well more than 300 yards.

Race 14 started in about 14 knots of breeze, which dropped as the boats circled the five-leg course between the Golden Gate Bridge and the Embarcadero. The Kiwis closed to within about 30 yards when the boats crossed on the windward third leg as they zigzagged toward the Golden Gate Bridge.

Oracle made an extra tack at the top of the leg in order to make a left turn at the third gate mark and go farther offshore. □

From left to right, Oracle Team USA tactician Ben Ainslie, skipper Jimmy Spithill and wing trimmer Kyle Langford wave after winning the 14th race of the America's Cup sailing event against Emirates Team New Zealand, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013, in San Francisco. Associated Press



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Stenson wins Tour Championship and \$10M FedEx Cup

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ATLANTA (AP) - Henrik Stenson knows better than most players how it feels to go from the depths of a slump to the elite in golf. He's done it twice now. And the second time was sweeter - and richer - than ever.

Not even among the top 200 players in the world two years ago, Stenson capped off the best three months of his career with a command performance Sunday in the Tour Championship. With a birdie to thwart a late charge by Jordan Spieth, followed by three pars from the sand, the 37-year-old Swede closed with a 2-under 68 on Sunday for a three-shot victory to capture the FedEx Cup.

He walked away with \$11.44 million - \$10 million for the FedEx Cup (\$9 million of that in cash) and \$1.44 million for winning the Tour Championship.

"It shows that I never give up," Stenson said, who also moves to No. 4 in the world. "This is way beyond what I could have imagined."

Even with a four-shot lead, the final round was a battle. There were two trophies on display on the first tee. He knew he could still win the FedEx Cup even if he didn't win the Tour Championship. Ultimately, he figured good golf would take care of everything, and it did.

Stenson became the first player to win the Tour Championship wire-to-wire with no ties since Tom Watson in 1987, the first year of this 30-man showcase.

Spieth made him work for it.

The 20-year-old Texan left one last impression on his remarkable rookie season



Henrik Stenson, of Sweden, poses with the trophies after winning the Tour Championship golf tournament and FedEx Cup at East Lake Golf Club, in Atlanta, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013.

Associated Press

by running off four straight birdies on the back nine at East Lake to pull within one shot after Stenson went well over the 14th green and made his long bogey.

Stenson could hear the cheers and knew what he faced over the last four holes.

"I'm not just a pretty face. I can put 1-and-1 together," the Swede said with his dry humor.

He drilled a 3-wood into the fairway on the par-5 15th that set up an 8-foot birdie. Ahead of him on the 17th, Spieth was between clubs and chose to hammer a 9-iron that he caught heavy enough that it plugged in the front bunker. He made bogey and had to settle for a 64.

"I was just looking up and seeing that I needed more instead of being satisfied with what happened," Spieth said of his four straight birdies.

Spieth wound up No. 7 in the FedEx Cup, the highest ever for a rookie. He began the year with no status on any tour and finished at No. 10 on the PGA Tour money list, and

No. 21 in the world.

The last challenge came from Steve Stricker, who rolled in an eagle putt on the 15th hole to get within two. Stricker saved par behind the 16th green, and then missed two birdie chances from about 18 feet on the last two holes for a 65. He tied for second with Spieth.

Stricker didn't realize that making any of those last two putts would have been worth an extra \$1 million for finishing second in the FedEx Cup. He only cared about winning, knowing he needed birdies and for Stenson to make a mistake.

"I knew the putt meant a lot. I didn't know it meant that much," he said with a smile. He finished third in the FedEx Cup and received a \$2 million bonus. Stenson, who finished at 13-under 267, became the first European to win the Tour Championship and the FedEx Cup.

His amazing summer began with a tie for third in the Scottish Open. Stenson followed with a runner-up at the British Open and the World Golf Cham-

pionship at Firestone, third place at the PGA Championship and a win at the Deutsche Bank Championship.

"Obviously, the work was done before," Stenson said. "It's not like I woke up in the middle of July and played fantastic."

The Tour Championship was his second win in three tournaments of the FedEx Cup playoffs.

"Since the Scottish Open, it's been just an incredible run," he said. "I'm speechless. It was a tough day out there. To hang in there the way I did, I'm really satisfied. ... It hasn't quite sunk in yet. I had to fight hard mentally to keep all this aside, and I managed to do that. It's going to feel better as the week goes on. I'm pretty sure about that."

Tiger Woods, the No. 1 seed going into the Tour Championship, never recovered from his 73-71 start. He closed with a 67 to tie for 22nd, his worst finish ever at East Lake, and wound up second in the FedEx Cup. That still was worth a \$3 million bonus.

Woods wrapped up the

PGA of America's points-based award for player of the year, and he captured the PGA Tour money title and the Vardon Trophy for the lowest adjusted scoring title. Next up is a vote of the players for PGA Tour player of the year. He is the heavy favorite with five wins this year. The award is to be announced on Friday.

For much of the day, no one got closer to Stenson than three shots, and he answered that early challenge with an 8-iron to an elevated green to 2 feet for birdie at No. 7. The Tour Championship came to life in the final hour, though, thanks to the youngest player in the field. Fearless as ever, Spieth began a run of birdies starting on the 13th hole that not only moved him into second place, it put pressure on Stenson not to drop any shots. Stenson's only bogey came on the 14th, when he caught a flyer over the green and missed a 20-foot putt.

"Henrik obviously was playing phenomenal golf," Spieth said. "I felt like once a few putts started falling, we have a shot at it."

Webb Simpson had the low round of the tournament with a 63 to finish fourth. Stenson, who only last week smashed a driver and his locker at the BMW Championship out of frustration brought on by playing so much golf, finally gets a break. He was headed to his home in Orlando, Fla., for a four-week break before returning in Shanghai.

Next up: A chance to become the first player to win the FedEx Cup on the PGA Tour and the Race to Dubai on the European Tour in the same season.

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Woods wins points award as player of the year

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Tiger Woods wrapped up at least one award as player of the year.

Woods has won the PGA of America's points-based award for player of the year on the strength of his five PGA Tour victories, the money title and the Vardon Trophy. Adam Scott would have had to win the Tour Championship and the Vardon Trophy for the race to end in a tie.

Woods had 90 points — 10 points for each of his five wins, 20 points each for the money title and Vardon Trophy for lowest adjusted scoring average.

It was the 11th time that Woods won PGA player of the year, and ninth time he won the Vardon.

He had not won either award since 2009, the year that ended with his personal life unraveling.

Woods earlier this month wrapped up the Arnold Palmer Award on the PGA Tour for winning his 10th money title with just over \$8.5 million. He also won the Byron Nelson Award for scoring average — similar to the Vardon Trophy with less stringent requirements — for the 10th time.

Still to be determined are PGA Tour awards for player of the year and rookie of the year. Both are a vote of the players, and the electronic ballots were to be returned quickly for a Friday announcement.

Woods would appear to be a heavy favorite to win the Jack Nicklaus Award as player of the year for the 11th time. While he did not win a major, his five wins were three more than



Tiger Woods hits out of the bunker on the third hole during the final round of play in the Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club, in Atlanta, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013.

Associated Press

anyone else on tour, and he won the money title.

Woods has two World Golf Championships and The Players Championship among his five wins.

"Well, look at the fact that I had five wins this year," Woods said after closing with a 67 at East Lake. "So I think that's a pretty good year."

The challenge comes from British Open champion Phil Mickelson and Masters champion Adam Scott. Both won majors with historical significance. Mickelson's closing 66 at Muirfield is regarded as one of the best final rounds in a major, and it happened at the major not many thought he could ever win. Scott ended a half-century of Australian heartache at Augusta National as the first Aussie in a green jacket. Mickelson also won the Phoenix Open, while Scott won The Barclays against one of the toughest fields in golf.

Woods said he was "very satisfied" with his season, even though it was his fifth

straight year without a major.

"I had a number of chances to win some tournaments," Woods said. "I won five, which I think is a pretty good year. I've done that a few times over the course of my career."

I wish I would have been a little more consistent in some of the events. But overall, at the end of the day, to add to the win total for the year, it's always a good thing."

The PGA Tour rookie of the year should be an easy vote. On the ballot of 20-year-old Jordan Spieth, who started the year with no status on any tour. He not only won the John Deere Classic, he reached the Tour Championship and was selected for the Presidents Cup team.

Russell Henley (Sony Open), Derek Ernst (Wells Fargo Championship) and Patrick Reed (Wyndham Championship) were the only other rookies to win this year. None made it to the Tour Championship. □



Minnesota Lynx's Lindsay Whalen drives past Seattle Storm's Temeka Johnson during the first half of a WNBA basketball play-off game in Tacoma, Wash. on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013.

Associated Press

Fever, Lynx advance to conference finals

The Associated Press
INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana Fever and Minnesota Lynx Advanced to their WNBA conference finals after sweeping their respective three-game semifinals series.

Tamika Catchings had 18 points and 12 rebounds as the Indiana Fever advanced with a 79-57 victory over the Chicago Sky in the Eastern Conference on Sunday.

Erlana Larkins added 14 points and Shavonte Zelous scored 10.

The Fever will play at either Atlanta or Washington in Game 1 of the conference finals on Thursday.

The defending champion Fever were the only WNBA team to reach the playoffs with a losing record. But Indiana took advantage of Chicago's poor shooting to defeat the Sky for the fifth straight time.

Sylvia Fowles led the Sky with 14 points. Epiphanny Prince scored 10 points,

and WNBA Rookie of the Year Elena Delle Donne added 10 points, but was scoreless in the second half.

At Tacoma, Washington, Seimone Augustus hit a 15-foot jump shot with 21.1 seconds left as Minnesota held off Seattle 58-55 in the Western Conference.

Maya Moore scored 22 points and Rebekkah Brunson had 15 points and 13 rebounds for Minnesota, which won the WNBA title in 2011 and lost to Indiana in last year's finals.

Tina Thompson had 13 points and nine rebounds for Seattle in the final game of her 17-year career. The 38-year-old is the WNBA's career scoring leader and won four league titles with Houston.

Minnesota opens the Western Conference finals against the winner of the Los Angeles-Phoenix series, which will be decided Monday. □




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Kenseth wins 2nd Chase race at New Hampshire

DAN GELSTON

AP Sports Writer

LOUDON, New Hampshire

(AP) — Matt Kenseth made it 2 for 2 in the Chase, holding off teammate Kyle Busch to win Sunday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

Kenseth followed his win in the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship opener at Chicagoland with his series-high seventh victory of the season.

Kenseth made his 500th career start and maintained his points lead as the series shifts to Dover.

Kenseth and Busch made it a 1-2 finish for Joe Gibbs Racing for the second straight week and helped the organization win for the fourth time in the last five Cup races.

Chase drivers filled six of the top 10 spots. Greg Biffle was third and Jimmie Johnson fourth. Dale Earnhardt Jr. was sixth and Carl Edwards ninth.

Kenseth joins Biffle (2008) and Tony Stewart (2011) as the only drivers to win the first two Chase races. Stewart went on to win the title. Kenseth won for the first time at New Hampshire and moves on in the No. 20 Toyota to Dover, where he's a two-time winner. He



led 29 laps there earlier this year before an engine failure ended his day.

"For me to win at Loudon, it's more than a stretch, more than a dream," Kenseth said. "This is probably one of my worst places. This just shows you how good this team is."

JGR, with Busch, in the past has dominated the regular season, but dropped off considerably once the Chase began. Now they've carried over their success into the Chase and are a credible 1-2 threat to give Toyota its first Sprint Cup title.

"There's somebody faster so it doesn't matter how fast I am," Busch said. "JGR has won five of the last seven races dating to Busch's win at Watkins Glen in August. Kenseth won at Bristol, Busch took Atlanta and Kenseth won the last two.

Kenseth has obliterated his season best for wins. His previous high was five in 2002 and Kenseth won only

once in 2003 when he won the Cup championship.

While NASCAR has been smacked with scandal, Kenseth has quietly gone under the radar doing what he does best: winning races.

He has 31 wins in 500 starts. "It's been a great start for JGR," Kenseth said. "I just feel like the luckiest guy in the world to be standing here."

Chase drivers took spots 13-17: Kurt Busch, Joey Logano, Jeff Gordon, Ryan Newman and Clint Bowyer. Kevin Harvick was 20th and Kasey Kahne slammed the inside wall with 48 laps left and was 37th.

Kenseth took the lead from Bowyer with 92 laps left. Martin Truex Jr., whose future is in limbo after NAPA dropped its sponsorship of Michael Waltrip Racing in the wake of the NASCAR scandal at Richmond, led a race-high 98 laps.

Jamie McMurray was the highest non-Chase finisher in fifth place. □

NASCAR driver Matt Kenseth celebrates in Victory Lane with a lobster after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013, in Loudon, N.H.

Associated Press

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Tony Martin powers Omega to TTT win at world championships



The Omega Pharma-Quick Step team approaches the finish line to win the men's team time trial in Florence, Italy, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013. Tony Martin powered Omega Pharma-Quick Step to its second consecutive title in the team time trial as the road cycling world championships opened Sunday.

Associated Press

FLORENCE, Italy (AP) — Tony Martin powered Omega Pharma-Quick Step to its second consecutive title in the team time trial as the road cycling world championships opened Sunday. Omega edged Orica Greenedge by a minuscule 0.81 seconds over the 57-kilometer (35-mile) route from Montecatini Terme to Florence, clocking 1 hour, 4 minutes, 16.81 seconds. Sky, featuring this year's Tour de France winner Chris Froome but without last year's Tour champion Bradley Wiggins, finished third, 22.55 seconds behind. For Omega, the victory was a measure of revenge for a one-second loss to Orica in a TTT at this year's Tour. "We know how it feels like to lose at the very last minute," Omega team director Tom Steels said. "Our athletes have been amazing, they won on character rather than on force"

Martin, the German who has also won the individual time trial at worlds the past two years, led a team that also included Sylvain Cha-

vanel of France, Michal Kwiatkowski of Poland, Niki Terpstra of the Netherlands, Kristof Vandewalle of Belgium and Peter Velits of Slovakia.

Omega trailed Orica at one checkpoint.

"Hearing that Orica overtook us worked like a wake-up call," Martin said. "In the end there were only four of us left, but in the city center, with all those turns, it was probably better."

BMC, with American standouts Taylor Phinney and Tejay van Garderen, finished fourth, and RadioShack with Swiss star Fabian Cancellara was fifth.

There was also a successful title defense in the women's event, with the American squad Specialized-Lululemon winning again.

Lisa Brennauer and Trixi Worack of Germany, Katie Colclough of Britain, Carmen Small and Evelyn Stevens of the United States and Eleonora van Dijk of the Netherlands clocked 51 minutes, 10.69 seconds along the 43-kilometer (27-mile) route from Pistoia to Florence. □

NFL Capsules



Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Dez Bryant (88) makes a touchdown reception as St. Louis Rams' Cortland Finnegan tumbles into the end zone during the first quarter of a NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

Continued from Page 18

Cincinnati's Andy Dalton was 20 of 28 for 235 yards with two touchdowns, an interception and a fumble that Jennings returned 24 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter, sparking Green Bay's comeback.

Dalton threw touchdown passes of 20 yards to A.J. Green and 11 yards to Marvin Jones, cutting the deficit to 30-28.

SAINTS 31, CARDINALS 7

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Drew Brees passed for three scores and scrambled for New Orleans' first touchdown rushing of the season in a victory over Arizona.

The Saints quarterback was 29 of 46 for 342 yards, with two TD strikes to tight end Jimmy Graham and the other to Robert Meachem. Brees was intercepted once by New Orleans native and former LSU star Tyrann Mathieu.

That play ended a scoring threat, but only delayed the inevitable on a day when Arizona's short-handed defense was little match for the prolific passing attack of the Saints (3-0).

Arizona (1-2) had no answer for the 6-foot-7 Graham, who caught nine passes for 134 yards.

Meanwhile, the Saints' rejuvenated defense produced four sacks and two interceptions of Carson Palmer.

The Saints hadn't opened a season with three straight victories since 2009, when they went on to win the franchise's only Super Bowl.

COWBOYS 31, RAMS 7

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — DeMarco Murray ran for 175 yards and a touchdown two years after torching St. Louis with a franchise record as a rookie, and Tony Romo threw for three scores in Dallas' route.

Murray had his first 100-yard game in more than a year.

The Cowboys (2-1) sacked Sam Bradford four times in the first half and had six overall after St. Louis (1-2) hadn't allowed a sack in four games, dating to last season. It was the Rams' longest streak since John Hadl was under center for a division champion in 1973.

Bradford went 29 for 48 and wasn't intercepted.

DeMarcus Ware had two sacks and broke Harvey Martin's 30-year-old franchise record of 114.

The Rams had just 18 total yards in the first half compared to 96 for Murray. The Cowboys had 202 yards before halftime.

Romo, who had 217 yards passing, went 2 yards to Dez Bryant for the first Dallas score. He had a pair of 24-yarders in the second half to rookie tight end Gavin Escobar and Dwayne Harris.

St. Louis avoided the shut-out on Bradford's 4-yard pass to Austin Pettis on fourth down late in the third quarter.

RAVENS 30, TEXANS 9

BALTIMORE (AP) — Daryl Smith had a 37-yard interception return for a TD, Tandon Doss took a punt 82 yards for another score, and Baltimore smothered Houston's high-powered offense.

The Ravens (2-1) won despite playing without Ray Rice for the first time since 2008. The three-time Pro Bowl running back was replaced by Bernard Pierce, who ran for 65 yards and a touchdown. Houston (2-1) led 6-3 before Smith picked off Matt Schaub's pass and took it into the end zone with 2:39 left in the first half. □



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Oil drops on U.S. budget uncertainty

The Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Oil fell more than 1 percent by the end of last week as fears of a disruption to Middle East supplies eased while concerns about a shutdown of the U.S. government grew stronger.

Benchmark oil for October delivery dropped \$1.72, or 1.4 percent, to close at \$104.67 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. For the week, oil dropped \$3.54, or 3.3 percent.

Progress in reaching a deal to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons helped put downward pressure on oil prices. On Thursday, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry called on the U.N. Security Council to back the U.S.-Russia deal, which has reduced the threat of a U.S. military strike.

Fears of instability in the oil-rich Middle East were further allayed after reports signaled a return of more Libyan crude oil to the market.

Production and exports have been sharply interrupted in the chaos following the overthrow of long-time dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

Finally, another budget battle loomed in Washington. Lawmakers need to agree to raise the debt ceiling by Oct. 1 to avoid a government shutdown, and a potential default on payments, including debt, later in the month.

Concerns about a stalemate between Republicans and the White House also contributed to a down day on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 1 percent. □

Amid economic stress, differing strategies emerge

KEITH BRADSHAW
JOE COCHRANE
© 2013 New York Times

JAKARTA, Indonesia - Indonesia and India, the two emerging markets hardest hit in recent weeks by falling currencies and other financial troubles, took opposite tracks Friday as both countries struggled to balance growth with the threat of inflation.

In an interview here, the vice president of Indonesia characterized higher interest rates and a weakened currency as the "new normal." Boediono, the country's vice president, who uses only one name, said that Indonesia would face a tougher international financial environment in the coming months and should give greater emphasis to a stable currency, stable prices and a stable trade balance and not just pursue economic growth.

"We have been addicted, so to speak, with an easy money environment for four years," said Boediono, the main architect of Indonesian economic policy since the Asian financial crisis in 1997 and 1998.

"We know that we have to make some adjustments, and maybe by next year, we have to really, fully adjust to a new normal, so to speak, where easy money is no longer" available.

But in Mumbai, the new governor of the Reserve Bank of India suggested that India faced less of an international threat after the Federal Reserve decided Wednesday to continue its economic stimulus, at least temporarily. The governor, Raghuram Rajan, lowered a key interest rate Friday by three-quarters of a percent, although he raised another, less important rate by a quarter of a percent.

India had pushed interest rates up sharply over the summer to make financial investments there more attractive and slow the fall of the rupee. Reversing part of that increase now "will provide a boost to growth, reduce the financing distortions that are emerging in the market and reduce the strain on corporate and bank balance sheets," Rajan, the new governor, said Friday at his first news conference on monetary policy.

In monetary terms, India is zigging while Indonesia is zagging, despite the many common challenges that have pummeled their currencies and stock markets in recent weeks. Both must

courage longer-term investments - a balancing act that has bedeviled policymakers in the United States and other affluent countries over the years.

The different policies outlined Friday in Jakarta and



Boediono, Indonesia's vice president, who recently characterized higher interest rates and a weakened currency as the "new normal," at his office in Jakarta, Indonesia. Boediono said Indonesians must get used to higher interest rates, while India's central bank on Friday lowered a key interest rate, putting the two emerging markets on opposite tracks as they attempt to balance growth with the threat of inflation.

(Andri Tambunan/The New York Times)

balance a need to preserve economic growth for large, heavily poor populations, while at the same time preventing a buildup of inflation that might dis-

Mumbai reflect differences in the seriousness of their predicaments, however, with India appearing to be in considerably worse shape. □

Oracle CEO Ellison's pay drops 18 pct to \$78.4M

REDWOOD CITY, California (AP) — The value of Oracle Corp. founder and CEO Larry Ellison's pay package dropped 18 percent in fiscal 2013, to \$78.4 million, after the business software company missed its internal financial targets and he declined his annual cash bonus.

That's according to a securities filing made early in the weekend and reviewed by The Associated Press.

Ellison, 69, is one of the highest-paid executives in the U.S. Forbes magazine ranks him as America's third-richest person with personal

wealth of \$41 billion.

The biggest chunk of compensation for the year, which ran through May, came in the form of stock options, valued at \$76.9 million when they were issued. Ellison also received about \$1.5 million worth of benefits, mostly for security. His annual salary is \$1.

He voluntarily declined a cash bonus that would have come to about \$1.2 million, given "growth that did not meet Oracle's internal expectations," the company said.

Chief Financial Officer and President Safra Catz's

compensation package decreased 16 percent to \$43.6 million, as did President Mark Hurd's pay. Catz and Hurd also voluntarily turned down a cash bonus that would have come to \$717,000 apiece.

In the last fiscal year, revenue was nearly unchanged at \$37.2 billion, while net income grew 9.5 percent to \$10.9 billion. The AP formula calculates an executive's total compensation during the last fiscal year by adding salary, bonuses, perks, above-market interest that the company pays on deferred compensation

and the estimated value of stock and stock options awarded during the year. The AP formula does not count changes in the present value of pension benefits. That makes the AP total slightly different in most cases from the total reported by companies to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The value that a company assigned to an executive's stock and option awards for 2012 was the present value of what the company expected the awards to be worth to the executive over time. □



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Big shareholder concedes over Smithfield deal

SARAH SELL
AP Business Writer

Smithfield Foods Inc.'s largest shareholder says it will vote in favor of a proposed takeover by a Chinese meat producer after failing to find an alternative bidder. Starboard Value LP had said earlier this month that it would vote against Shuanghui International Holdings Ltd.'s \$34 per share offer because it wanted more time to seek alternatives that would provide better shareholder value.

The New York investment firm said Friday that it believes another bidder could have offered shareholders a better deal, but it could not secure an offer under existing time and financial constraints. Unless another proposal emerges, Starboard plans on voting in favor of Shuanghui's \$4.7 billion offer. The vote has been set for Tuesday. Starboard owns about 5.7 percent of Smithfield's common stock.

The investment firm had argued that while the deal with Shuanghui does offer some value, shareholders would be better served if the company focused on selling its various divisions, which include fresh pork and hog production businesses, as well as its international divisions.

Because Smithfield is contractually prohibited from seeking superior offers or contacting others who may be interested in acquiring parts of the company, the investment firm sought to find other buyers. A representative for Smithfield could not be reached immediately for comment. The deal, which is expected to close by the end of the year. □

Old School 'Microloans' surging in Silicon Valley

MARTHA MENDOZA
AP National Writer
SAN JOSE, California (AP)

— A daycare provider needed cribs and high chairs. A coffee truck needed a generator. A

"Our clients are entrepreneurial people, but the mainstream financial system doesn't work for them," said Eric Weaver, founder and CEO of the San Jose, California-based

griddle, the Holy Cow truck is a popular attraction at farmer's markets.

"I borrowed from Opportunity Fund rather than a bank because they are more in tune with the

Fund last year. The program, which is nonprofit and sustained by donations, has extended to Los Angeles in recent years. And this summer, Opportunity Fund teamed with Pacific Coast Ventures to target loans to Santa Cruz and Monterey counties.

Because microlenders work closely with recipients, providing financial education and business support, the microloans in the San Francisco Bay area have a delinquency rate of under 1 percent, compared with loss rates of about 5 percent for more typical loans. Rates range from about 8 to 12 percent, well below the 30 percent credit card rates many entrepreneurs use to try to launch businesses.

Despite a booming tech industry, the region faces growing inequality, stagnant job growth, soaring housing and transportation costs and widespread low wages. Small business owners who are largely immigrants point to their microloans, usually around \$15,000, as a turning point for "making it."

Argentine chef Manuel Godino had no credit but lots of demand for his empanadas, which he cooked in an industrial kitchen and sold to cafes and restaurants. A microloan helped him launch his own storefront Venga Empanadas in San Francisco's Mission District, where he employs another eight people. Confectioner Cristina Arantes tapped Opportunity Fund to support her Kika's Treats, making chocolate shortbreads and caramels. Tina Ferguson-Riffe turned her \$20,000 loan into a barbecue joint, Smoke Berkeley, where she employs seven others. □



Victor Valenzuela, right, serves an espresso drink inside his ice cream truck in San Jose, Calif. Valenzuela is one of 111 food trucks financed with microloans from the San Jose-based Opportunity Fund.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

couple renting party supplies needed to move from a garage into a storefront. When these Silicon Valley small businesses needed an influx of cash, and fast, they didn't find help at a bank. They turned instead to a type of financing more commonly associated with buying a sewing machine for a Guatemalan tailor or a tractor for an African farmer.

Microlending, a decades old form of financing for the world's poorest, is now booming in Silicon Valley. The region leads the country for microlending as a growing echelon of would-be businesspersons who can't qualify for traditional bank loans meets money from cash-rich techies and firms, including eBay and Microsoft, who want to donate in innovative ways.

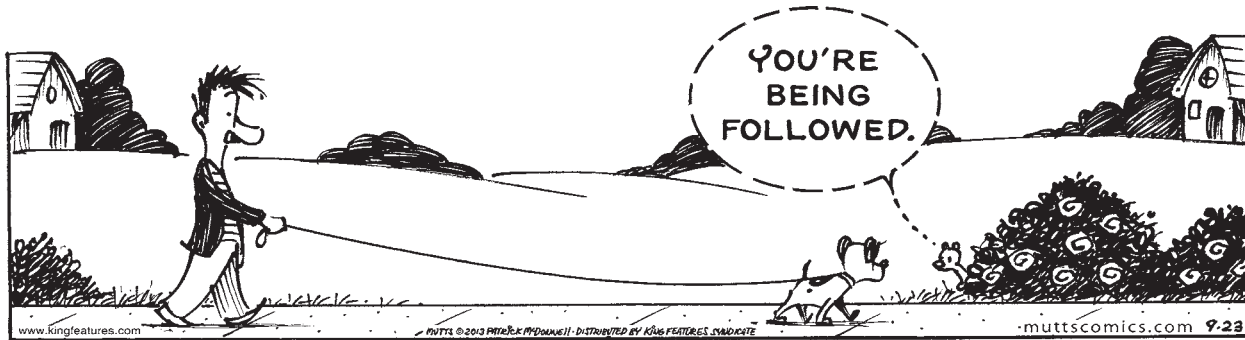
Opportunity Fund, which invested a record \$7.6 million in loans to small businesses last year, creating about 1,900 jobs.

Beneficiaries range from dry cleaners to barbecue joints, and the lender is now believed to be the largest financier of food trucks in the state. "A food truck or a hot dog cart is a U.S. equivalent of a cow in a developing country," he said. "It's something a family can support itself with." Paul Cruce tried banks, and even the high tech crowdsourcing route to get his Holy Cow Coffee Company to join the "up-scale food truck brigade" before turning to Opportunity Fund.

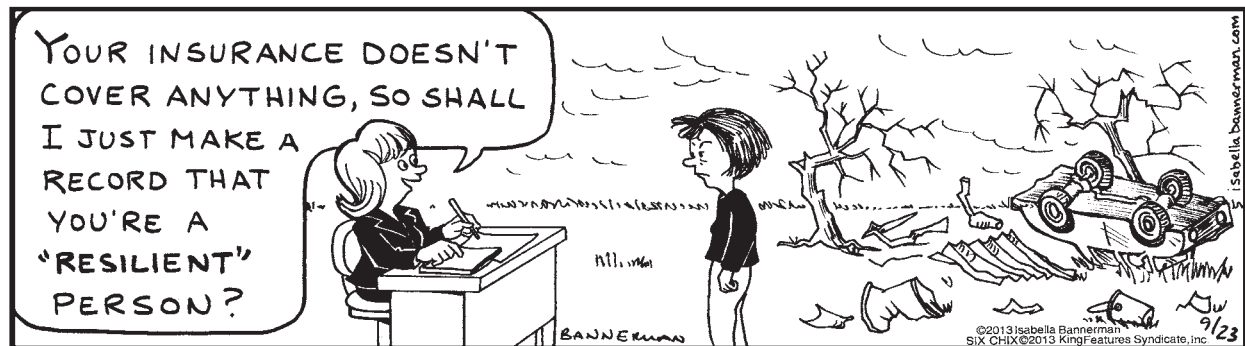
Today, with a new generator powering the refrigerator, espresso machine, coffee brewer and crepe

needs of small business and have more favorable credit terms," Cruce said. Microlending was devised by Bangladeshi banker Mohammad Yunus, who won the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for developing the financial instrument that supports would-be business owners too poor to qualify for traditional bank loans. Today, the global microfinance industry has more than 200 million clients with \$73 billion in outstanding loans, according to the London-based Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation. Just a small fraction of those — about \$165 million — are in the United States, where about 400 institutions offer microloans. Those firms typically give about 45 loans a year, compared with a record 1,200 from Opportunity

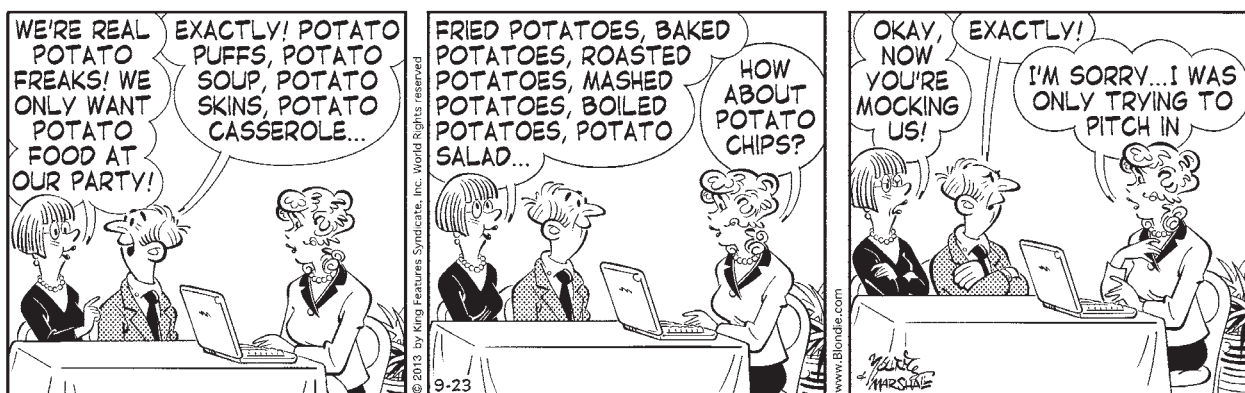
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6 Chix



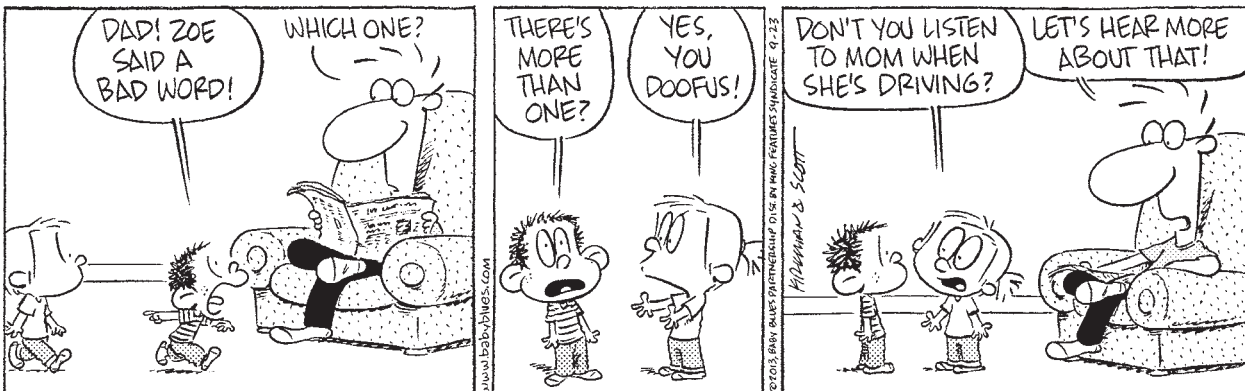
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		3		8	4		1	
			9	1				7
6		9				2		
	2			7				4
7	5		2		1		8	3
8				4			2	
		8				3		1
5				3	6			
	3		7	9		4		

Difficulty Level ★

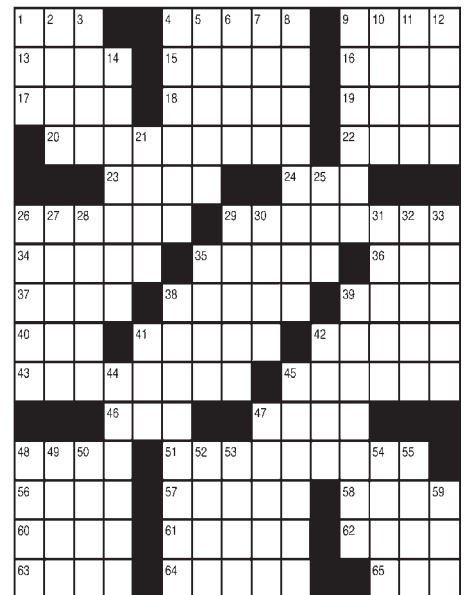
9/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concepts Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer	4	9	7	8	1	5	2	3	6
	1	6	2	4	9	3	7	5	8
	3	8	5	7	6	2	4	1	9
	2	4	3	5	8	9	6	7	1
	6	1	9	3	2	7	5	8	4
	5	7	8	6	4	1	3	9	2
	8	3	4	9	5	6	1	2	7
	9	5	1	2	7	4	8	6	3
	7	2	6	1	3	8	9	4	5

ACROSS

- 1 Zodiac lion
- 4 Strikes with an open hand
- 9 Dull in color
- 13 Possesses
- 15 ___ noir; popular red wine
- 16 Hill
- 17 At someone's ___ & call; ready to obey quickly
- 18 Leaf gatherer
- 19 Actress Chase
- 20 State again
- 22 Part of a three-piece suit
- 23 Eskimo ___; ice cream treats
- 24 Lincoln, to friends
- 26 Vineyard fruits
- 29 Living on the street
- 34 Refueling ship
- 35 One of Michael Jackson's sisters



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/23/13

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

DOWN

- 1 Hit a tennis ball in a high arc
- 2 Pitcher
- 3 A single time
- 4 Wild binges
- 5 Dishonest folks
- 6 Singer Paul ____
- 7 Yeats or Keats
- 8 Wavy pennant
- 9 Silly talk
- 10 Irritate
- 11 Inquires
- 12 Outscore
- 14 ____ over; failed to include
- 21 Bleachers level
- 25 Wager
- 26 Aims
- 27 Opponent
- 28 Excuse
- 29 Basketball team in Atlanta
- 30 Dollar bills
- 31 Jagged
- 32 Police car's blaring device
- 33 Intelligent
- 35 Heckle; taunt

S	A	R	I	S		A	J	A	R		A	L	T	O
P	L	A	N	E		N	O	V	A		P	E	E	T
A	L	I	C	E		N	Y	E	T		P	A	N	T
S	Y	N	O	P	S	I	S		S	P	A	R	S	E
			M	I	C	E		M	O	U	R	N	E	R
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B	E	H	I	N	D		D	A	N	D	R	U	F	F
B	R	I	E		I	C	E	A	D		S	I	T	A
E	V	E	S		G	O	A	D		E	V	A	D	E
D	E	F	T		O	N	L	Y		T	E	H	E	E

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9/23/13

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| 38 Unnecessary | 48 Part of; the eye |
| 39 Mrs. Clinton | 49 Declare openly |
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| Jamaica | alternative |
| 42 No longer sick | 52 ___ if; although |
| 44 Alpine hut | 53 Autry or Wilder |
| 45 List of | 54 Wrench or saw |
| members | 55 Border |
| 47 Hose down | 59 Droop |

Mullainathan Column:

The overt mental strain of making do with less

SENDHIL MULLAINATHAN
© 2013 New York Times

Diets don't just reduce weight, they can reduce mental capacity. In other words, dieting can make you dumber.

Understanding why this is the case can illuminate a range of experiences, including something as far removed from voluntary calorie restriction as the ordeal of outright poverty. Imagine that you are attending a late-afternoon meeting. Someone brings in a plate of cookies and places them on the other side of the conference table. Ten minutes later you realize you've processed only half of what has been said.

Why? Only half of your mind was in the meeting. The other half was with the cookies: "Should I have one? I worked out yesterday. I deserve it. No, I should be good."

That cookie threatened to strain your waistline. It succeeded in straining your mind.

This can happen even with no cookie in sight. Dieters conjure their own cookies: Psychologists find that dieters have spontaneous self-generated cravings at a much higher rate than nondieters. And these cravings are not the dieters' only distraction. Diets force trade-offs: If you eat the cookie, should you skip the appetizer at dinner? But that restaurant looked so good!

Many diets also require constant calculations to determine calorie counts. All this clogs up the brain. Psychologists measure the impact of this clogging on various tasks: logical and spatial reasoning,

self-control, problem solving, and absorption and retention of new information. Together these tasks measure "bandwidth," the resource that underlies all higher-order mental activ-



The constant distraction of restricting calorie intake is said to strain the mental capacity of dieters the same way that poverty affects the poor. (Justin Gabbard/The New York Times)

ity. Inevitably, dieters do worse than nondieters on all these tasks; they have less bandwidth.

As Professor Eldar Shafir at Princeton University and I argue in our new book, "Scarcity: Why Having Too Little Means So Much" (Times Books), a similar psychology of scarcity operates across these examples but with varying degrees of force. If a cookie can tax our mental resources, imagine how much more psychological impact other forms of scarcity can have.

Take the case of poverty. In a paper published last month in Science, with Professors Anandi Mani at the University of Warwick and Jiaying Zhao at the University of British Columbia, Shafir and I waded into politically charged territory. Some people argue that the poor make terrible choices and do so because they are inherently

less capable. But our analysis of scarcity suggests a different perspective: perhaps the poor are just as capable as everyone else. Perhaps the problem is not poor people but the mental strain that poverty imposes on anyone who must endure it.

Bandwidth scarcity has far-reaching consequences, whether we are talking about poor farmers or affluent dieters. We all use bandwidth to make decisions at work, to resist the urge to yell at our children when they annoy us, or even to focus on a conversation during dinner or in a meeting. The diversity of these behaviors - combined with the size of the measurable effects - suggests a very different way to interpret the choices and behaviors of the poor. Just picture how distract-

ing that cookie was, and multiply that experience by a factor of 10.

For dieters, bandwidth scarcity has one particularly important consequence, illustrated in one study that gave people a choice between fruit salad and cake. Before choosing, half of the subjects had their bandwidth taxed: they were asked to remember a seven-digit number. The other half had a mentally less-demanding task: they were asked to remember a two-digit number. □

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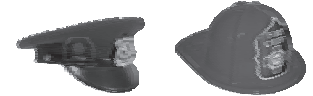
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Computer mishap delays space station supply ship

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — A brand new commercial cargo ship making its orbital debut experienced navigation system trouble Sunday, and its arrival at the International Space Station was delayed at least two days.

The rendezvous was aborted less than six hours before the scheduled arrival of Orbital Sciences Corp.'s Cygnus capsule, packed with 1,300 pounds (590 kilograms) of food and clothes for the space station crew. The Virginia-based company said it already has developed a software repair. The new software will be tested on the ground before it is transmitted to the Cygnus and tested again. If all goes well, the capsule will make another docking attempt Tuesday morning. Orbital Sciences said the

two orbiting vessels established direct contact early Sunday, four days after the Cygnus' launch from Virginia. But the Cygnus rejected some of the data, which interrupted the entire rendezvous. Until then, everything had been going well. The problem was traced to a difference in data format in the navigation systems of the two spacecraft, the company said. Otherwise, the Cygnus remains healthy.

Because this is a test flight of the Cygnus, nothing valuable or urgent is on board. If necessary, it could keep orbiting the world for weeks, even months, before pulling up at the orbiting lab.

Orbital Sciences is the second private company to launch supplies to the space station. In 2012, the California-based SpaceX began accomplishing that



Orbital Science's Antares launch vehicle carrying the Cygnus spacecraft stands on the pad at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013.

Associated Press

job for NASA. The space agency is paying the two companies to deliver goods to the space station, in the absence of the now-retired space shuttles.

Three astronauts — an American, Italian and Russian — currently are aboard the orbiting outpost. On Wednesday, three more crew members will be

launched from Kazakhstan. Orbital Sciences will have to work around that manned flight, delaying the Cygnus further if a Tuesday hookup is not feasible. □

NASA declares end to Deep Impact comet mission

ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A

spacecraft that gave scientists their first peek into a comet's icy interior will explore no more, NASA said Friday.

The space agency declared an end to the Deep Impact spacecraft after it unexpectedly fell silent. Engineers tried for a month to regain contact, but lost hope.

Mission scientist Jessica Sunshine of the University of Maryland said she was "saddened at the loss of an old friend."

Deep Impact put on a celestial fireworks display July 4, 2005, when it fired

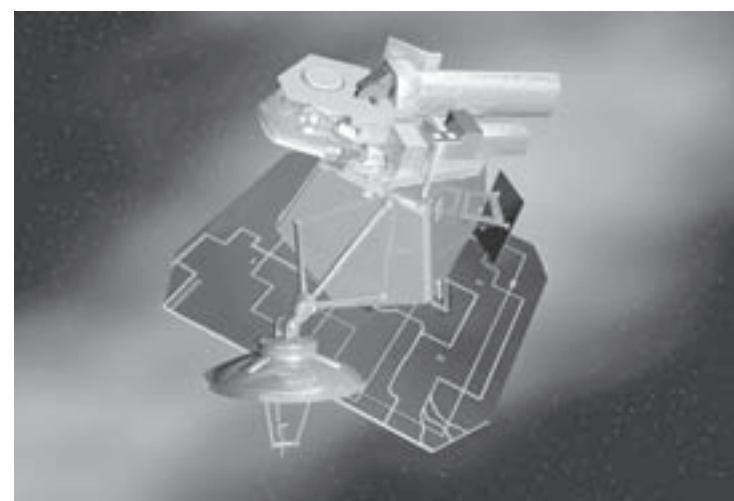
a projectile into comet Tempel 1. The high-speed impact carved a crater and hurled a plume of debris into space, giving scientists their first glimpse of the comet's frozen primordial ingredients. Afterward, Deep Impact journeyed toward comet Hartley 2, flying through a blizzard of ice particles and escaping unharmed. It later flew by the distant comet Garradd and also observed stars in search of Earth-sized planets outside the solar system. Before Deep Impact lost contact last month, it was studying another comet named Ison that could shine as bright as the moon when it makes a close

swing by Earth in November.

The cause of the failure was unknown, but engineers suspect the spacecraft lost control, causing its antenna and solar panels to point in the wrong direction. Without power flowing to its onboard computer, Deep Impact likely froze to death. Scientists were disappointed at the timing of the silence that cut short their observations of comet Ison and future plans.

"It is hard to say goodbye," said mission scientist Lori Feaga of the University of Maryland.

Deep Impact's comet adventures have changed scientists' views of comets,



This undated artist rendering released by NASA shows the Deep Impact spacecraft. In 2005, it smashed a comet with a projectile to give scientists a peek of the interior.

Associated Press

irregular bodies of ice and dust that orbit the sun and are leftovers from the formation of the solar system. Once thought to be similar, scientists said comets are more varied than initially realized. Comet Tempel 1, for example, turned out

to be fluffier than scientists imagined.

The \$372 million Deep Impact mission was managed by the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. With communication lost, the spacecraft will continue traveling around the sun. □

'Prisoners' tops box office with \$21.4 million

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—The more adult-oriented fall movie-going season got off to a strong start over the weekend, as the Hugh Jackman kidnapping drama "Prisoners" opened with a box office-leading \$21.4 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Warner Bros. thriller, which also stars Jake Gyllenhaal, is among the first fall films with Oscar aspirations to open in theaters. It was a strong debut for a serious, R-rated drama that cost about \$30 million to make.

Following the robust business for "Lee Daniels' The Butler" (now up to \$106.5 million in six weeks for the Weinstein Co.), the large audiences turning out for adult fare bodes well for Hollywood's coming awards season.

Directed by Denis Villeneuve, the nearly 2 ½ hour-

long "Prisoners" is about the working-class families of two young girls who are abducted.

In a story heavy with allegory, Jackman plays a father willing to cross moral lines for justice. Gyllenhaal stars as the small-town police detective trying to investigate the case.

Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros., said the audience was 74 percent under the age of 50.

The film, he noted, was launched "very similarly" to Warner Bros.'s October-released "Argo," which, like "Prisoners," premiered at the Telluride Film Festival and then the Toronto International Film Festival.

In limited release, two other adult-oriented films opened well.

Ron Howard's Formula One tale "Rush" opened with a \$40,000 per-theater average in five theaters. And the romantic comedy "Enough Said," which co-

stars James Gandolfini in one of his final performances, took in a per-screen average of \$60,000, opening in four theaters. Both films expand next week.

"Prisoners," "Rush" and "Enough Said" have all received good reviews.

"A few years ago, people were saying that the adult drama is dead," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com.

"We're just seeing a change. Now we're finding that intersection between good movies that are also generating big box office." Last week's top film, "Insidious: Chapter 2," slid to second place for FilmDistrict. The horror film made \$14.5 million in its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. It has made \$60.9 million in two weeks domestically.

The Chris Brown dance film "Battle of the Year" opened poorly for Sony Pictures' Screen Gems, taking



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Maria Bello, left, and Hugh Jackman in a scene from "Prisoners."

Associated Press

in only \$5 million.

Warner Bros.'s 3-D conversion of "The Wizard of Oz" made \$3 million, opening on 318 IMAX screens.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. □

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a

perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. With any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. Aruhiba gift boxes are now available at Dufry Shop at the Airport.

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Jackman mingles with fans as Iowa theater reopens

IOWA FALLS, Iowa (AP)

— Actor Hugh Jackman didn't just show up for Saturday night's reopening of the historic Metropolitan Theater in Iowa Falls. He and his family spent much of the day in the small community.

Jackman, his wife and children arrived in Iowa Falls on Saturday afternoon and went fishing at a city park before taking in festivities at the 114-year-old refurbished movie theater. "I've never had my family with me on one of these. But it felt right here," Jackman said.

Jackman later greeted hundreds of people outside the theater, which was showing two of his movies, the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier reported. He even sang briefly at a city park. About 300 seats were available inside the twin-screen theater. Tickets sold for \$100 or through a raffle that raised money for a lo-



Actor Hugh Jackman, left, and his wife, actress Deborah-Lee Furness, right, attend the New Yorkers For Children Fall Gala 2013 on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013 in New York.

Associated Press

cal hospital.

Jackman's invitation to Iowa came from John Whitesell, a retired attorney from Iowa Falls who bought and restored the theater. Whitesell's son is Jackman's agent. □

Influential director Richard Sarafian dies at 83



This photo released by shows director Richard Sarafian.

Associated Press

ANDREW DALTON

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Richard Sarafian, an influential film director whose 1971 countercultural car-chase thriller "Vanishing Point" brought him a decades-long cult following, has died in Southern California, his son said Saturday night. Richard Sarafian died at a Santa Monica hospital on

Wednesday of pneumonia contracted while he was recovering from a fall, son Deran Sarafian told The Associated Press. He was 83. Sarafian worked primarily in television in his early career, directing episodes of 60s shows like "Gunsmoke," "I Spy," and "77 Sunset Strip."

He also directed 1963's "Living Doll" episode of "The Twilight Zone," a chilling tale whose demonic main character Talky Tina terrified children for decades.

That included his own kids. Deran Sarafian said as a boy he thought the episode was "the most horrible thing I've ever seen" before learning his father had made it.

But Richard Sarafian was best known by far for "Vanishing Point," a dark story of a drug-fueled auto pursuit through the Nevada desert brought on by a bet between a Vietnam vet and his drug dealer.

"It was about speed" in both the drug and automotive senses, Deran Se-

rafiian said. "About what it really meant."

The film and director had a major influence on the generation of maverick moviemakers and actors, often referred to as "Easy Riders, Raging Bulls," who would come to dominate Hollywood in the 1970s.

"He's considered one of the original Raging Bulls, that's why Warren Beatty and Sean Penn and people like that absolutely adore him," Deran Sarafian said.

Beatty was a particularly devoted fan, casting Sarafian as an actor in two of his own 1990s films, "Bugsy" and "Bulworth."

And he had nearly as big an influence on later directors like Quentin Tarantino, who gave him a "special thanks" credit at the end of one of his films.

Sarafian was close friends with "MASH" director Robert Altman, and twice married Altman's sister Helen Joan Altman, who died in 2011.

He's survived by four sons and a daughter. □



In this Sept. 6, 2013 file photo, actor Benedict Cumberbatch participates in the news conference for "The Fifth Estate" on day two of the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival at the TIFF Bell Lightbox, in Toronto.

Associated Press

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — WikiLeaks has posted the script to "The Fifth Estate" and made its most forceful denunciation of the film about the site's creation and its colorful founder.

The whistleblower website posted a memo calling the movie "irresponsible, counterproductive and harmful." The DreamWorks film, which Disney will release Oct. 18, chronicles the birth of WikiLeaks with Benedict Cumberbatch playing site

WikiLeaks leaks 'Fifth Estate' screenplay

founder Julian Assange. Assange has previously called "The Fifth Estate" "a massive propaganda attack." In a lengthy, point-by-point posting, WikiLeaks refuted the film's depiction of WikiLeaks, disputing everything from its suggestion that documents the site released put confidential sources in danger, to the idea that Assange dyes his hair.

"Most of the events depicted never happened, or the people shown were not involved in them," reads the posting. "It has real names, real places, and looks like it is covering real events, but it is still a dramatic and cinematic work, and it invents or shapes the facts to fit its narrative goals."

The WikiLeaks memo stated that it was judging the film from "a mature" script from late in production, not the finished film.

The screenplay by Josh Singer was partly based on "Inside WikiLeaks: My Time With Julian Assange and the World's Most Dangerous Website," by Daniel Domscheit-Berg, an early WikiLeaks collaborator who publicly and bitterly fell out with Assange; and "WikiLeaks: Inside Julian Assange's War on Secrecy," by British journalists David Leigh and Luke Harding. Assange has been critical of both.

The filmmakers and Cumberbatch reached out to Assange in the making of the film, but were rebuffed. The film, which premiered

earlier this month at the Toronto International Film Festival, portrays Assange as a visionary with democratic ideals for information and altruistic motives for whistleblowers.

but also as a lying, reckless revolutionary who ultimately sabotages his own creation by his refusal to consider the lives of revealed sources in published documents.

Representatives with the film didn't immediately comment Sunday on WikiLeaks' criticisms.

In an earlier interview, director Bill Condon told The Associated Press that Assange "has the sense of (the film) being something very different than what it is." □

Knowing When To Worry



GAIL COLLINS
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I know you're worried about the government shutting down on Oct. 1. Who wouldn't be? Services suspended, the nation's credibility damaged in the eyes of the rest of the world. What serious person would want to let that happen?

Hehehehe.

The better to plan your watchful worry, here's a tentative schedule of events:

Monday, Sept. 23: Senate goes into session to consider the House bill that couples funding for the government with defunding Obamacare.

House is on vacation. I'm serious. Wednesday, Sept. 25: House comes back from vacation. Early. So stop carping.

Thursday, Sept. 26: Senate is working its way toward a vote on the bill. Whoops! Somebody just objected to something. May take a little while longer.

Friday, Sept. 27: The House takes up a bill to raise the debt ceiling, thus allowing the government to continue paying its bills. Which is tied to defunding Obamacare, and construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.

Saturday, Sept. 28: The entire planet says: "Keystone pipeline?"

Sunday, Sept. 29: Maybe a day or two before, but around here - the Senate strips the Obamacare part from the bill funding the government, passes the bill and sends it back to the House. Sept. 30: Last minute! Clock is ticking!

Oct. 1: Best-case scenario - the House passes the bill in the wee small hours of the morning. Everyone breathes a sigh of relief and moves on to the question of whether the government's ability to pay its debts should hinge on the construction of an oil pipe to the Gulf Coast.

One thing at a time. About keeping the government running: In the end, it'll all be up to the House Republicans - pass a clean bill or dig in their heels and turn off the lights. "At that point, House Republicans must stand firm, hold their ground, and continue to listen to the American people," said Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas.

House leaders were less than thrilled with his advice. It was sort of like a guy who left the Alamo at the last minute, yelling "Victory or Death!" as he galloped out of sight. Some people believe that Cruz is behind everything crazy going on in Washington right now. This is possibly true, if you work under the reasonable

assumption that everything that happens in the world is based on a movie plot:

THE CALGARIAN CANDIDATE

During the Bush administration, agents of the Democratic Party hatch a long-term plot to ensure political ascendancy in the 21st century. Their secret tool: a Canadian-born Texas lawyer who they kidnap and brainwash. The mole - we will call him T. - suddenly emerges out of political obscurity in 2012, propelled into the U.S. Senate by members of the Texas Republican Party who have also been secretly hypnotized by the Democratic operatives. The only sign of their transformation is a compulsion to say "T. is the kindest, bravest, warmest, most wonderful human being I've ever known in my life" over and over again. By the next year, Democrats decide they want to force the congressional Republicans to behave with breathtaking irresponsibility. Time to pull the trigger! While T. is standing alone at a Washington costume party, he is approached by a beautiful woman dressed as the Second Amendment. And then ...

Actually, the House Republicans have plenty of Tea Party patriots who are perfectly capable of being crazy all by themselves. Rep. Ted Yoho of Florida told The Times' Ashley Parker and Jonathan Weisman that he was ready to stick to his guns: "It only takes one with passion - look at Rosa Parks, Lech Walesa, Martin Luther King."

I am mentioning this partly because it isn't often you hear someone equate eliminating health insurance for the poor with Rosa Parks. Also because I like to write "Rep. Ted Yoho."

The bill the House sent to the Senate on Friday doesn't even make much sense. The "defund Obamacare" part looks as though it was written by squirrels. If it became law, Obamacare would actually continue to exist. At most, the administration would be crippled in their early efforts to get younger uninsured Americans to sign up for health coverage. (This would presumably give the opposition more time to run those ads that show a young woman being given a pelvic exam by a monster Uncle Sam doll.) And, meanwhile, the popular Children's Health Insurance Program would be thrown into chaos, as well as payments to doctors who treat Medicare patients.

But what the heck. No sacrifice is too great when the cause is convincing young adults that they shouldn't buy health coverage. It's an intense moment, even by current political standards. When the Republicans met in conference Friday, Politico reported, Rep. Mike Kelly of Pennsylvania compared John Boehner to Jesus: "I don't want this to be like Palm Sunday, where we bring the speaker in on a little donkey and then next Friday, we crucify him."

I know, I'm having a hard time getting the image out of my mind, too. □



Kamikaze Congress



CHARLES M. BLOW
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Delay and defund. And default. That is the House Republicans' brilliant plan in their last-ditch effort to block implementation of the Affordable Care Act. It is a plan that threatens to grind the government to a halt and wreak havoc on the economy. If they can't take over Washington, they'll shut it down. It's their way or no way. All or nothing. This is what has become of a party hijacked by zealots.

It would be tempting to blame all Republicans for this absurdity, but that would be unfair. There are still Republicans who are interested in good governance, but they're being dragged to the nether regions of nonsensical policymaking by younger, more ideological members of Congress, many from safely gerrymandered districts that form virtual echo chambers of irrationality.

The old guard has warned against the recklessness of the tactics of far-right House Republicans.

John McCain told CNN on Thursday: "In the United States Senate, we will not repeal, or defund, Obamacare. We will not. And to think we can is not rational."

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., said of the House Republicans' strategy of threatening a government shutdown to force the defunding of Obamacare, "I think it's the dumbest idea I've ever heard

of."

Sen. Jim Risch, R-Idaho, has said: "There isn't anybody that thinks that Obamacare is going to get defunded. It cannot happen." He added, "It is as impossible as anything can possibly be in Washington, D.C."

Even Karl Rove struck a rational tone in a Wall Street Journal op-ed published online Wednesday evening, saying:

"Any strategy to repeal, delay or replace the law must have a credible chance of succeeding or affecting broad public opinion positively. The defunding strategy doesn't. Going down that road would strengthen the president while alienating independents. It is an ill-conceived tactic, and Republicans should reject it."

But all those pleas seem to have fallen on deaf ears, or at least defiant ones.

On Friday, House Republicans (and two Democrats) passed a spending resolution that would cut all funding for the health care law.

This bill has no chance of passing in the Senate, but that wasn't the point. The point was to gum up the works and to force vulnerable Democrats in heavily red states to go on record as refusing to defund the health care law.

These Republicans aren't afraid the law will fail as much as they're afraid that it will succeed and become part of the fabric of the collective conscience - and worst yet, be a clear legacy victory for President Barack Obama. There is no more bitter Tea Party loss than a perceived Obama victory. The president is the focal point of the party's frustrations. Tea Party representatives have been sent to Washington with a singular mission: obstruct Obama.

These kamikaze members of Congress have made the House of Representatives a house of horrors, where smart thinking is

smothered, where rabble demand respect.

These are members of Congress from districts where the distrust of the federal government and the distaste for this president are blinding.

Some of them twist poll results to buttress their bitterness. They point to polls showing that most Americans opposed the law as fuel for their fight. What they neglect to reveal is that a sizable portion of those who opposed the law do so because they don't think it goes far enough, not because it goes too far. A May CNN/ORC poll found that 43 percent of Americans favored the law while 54 percent opposed it. But it also found that of those polled, 16 percent opposed the law because they thought that it wasn't liberal enough. Put another way, 59 percent of Americans support the law or want it to be more liberal.

Furthermore, a poll released this week by the Pew Research Center found that of the 53 percent of Americans who said they disapproved of the law, the percentage who want elected officials who oppose the law to try to make it work as well as possible was larger than the percentage who wanted them to try to make it fail.

The American people are not on the far right's side in battle. House Republicans are on a quixotic mission.

Sometimes in a fight, you just have to know when your opponent has gotten the better of you, limp home and live to fight another day. But the House Republicans prefer a twisted, last-stand view: face sure defeat in a blaze of glory and be remembered for standing up for what you believe in.

If only their stance were honorable. There is no glory in this. This is petty and small. This is vindictive and vainglorious. This is what the end of seriousness looks like. □

At Palm Beach Plaza Mall:

Aruba's Majestic Carnival Season Comes To Life!



PALM BEACH - Palm Beach Plaza Mall new majestic carnival season has started at Aruba's largest mall. The Aruba Carnival is a thrilling show of over-the-top pagentry, produced by thousands and delighting and uniting the entire country. Here's the scoop on how it began.

Carnival was born in 1954,

an Aruba Festival - a large parade in San Nicolas comprised largely of Caribbean-English immigrants who came to Aruba to work at the Lago Oil Refinery. The first steel and brass bands debuted a few years later and small parades sprouted here and there.

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LONGINES



as a series of small street festivals.

The Tivoli Club, Aruba's oldest private social club, was the first to have a pre-Lenten celebration in Oranjestad in February 1944. The Allied victory of World War II was commemorated by

Mall will have a great Carnival Show where you can experience for yourself the taste of Aruba's Carnival culture with the opportunity to take pictures with the majestic carnival dancers with carnival costumes. Come and enjoy the show!

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